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ARAB TIMES

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'Indomitable Lions' maul soccer kings in World Cup opener A day the world stood still

Shocking start

MILAN, Italy, June 8, (AP): Fans from Cameroon erupted in joy last night, waving flags, cheering and applauding after their team scored on a header to take a 1-0 lead over Argentina in the opening game of the World Cup.

The "Indomitable Lions" of Cameroon held on to win in one of the biggest upsets in the history of the world soccer championship. Argentina won the 1986 World Cup.

As time expired with the Lions winning 1-0, the Cameroon players dashed around the field, jumping up and down, and hugging each other.

A section of Meazza stadium in Milan filled with Cameroon fans broke into tumultuous celebration when Francois Omam Biyik scored on a header, to give the team its 1-0 lead and, eventually, the victory.

The Cameroon fans cheered, shouted and waved their African country's green, red and yellow flag.

Argentine fans were stunned by their team's loss.



Maradona displays his ambassador's passport to journalists.

NEWSWATCH

INSIDE: An Arab Times special supplement on Travel and Tourism. Pages 15-28

Loan for air fare: Sri Lankans seeking employment in Middle East countries are to be assisted by the government through a loan scheme, officials said in Colombo on Friday.

An initial sum of 10 million rupees (\$263,000) is to be granted, of which a block loan of rupees 12,000 (\$316) will be allocated to each individual to meet the cost of air tickets, a labour official said.

Beheading: A Saudi Arabian drug trafficker convicted of murder and other crimes was beheaded in public after Friday noon prayers, Radio Riyadh reported.

It quoted an Interior Ministry statement as saying the decapitated body of Rashid Saif Mubarak Al Utairi was crucified.

The statement said Utairi had shot and killed a member of the security forces during a battle with a drug-dealing ring that he headed. (Reuters)

Saudis restrict Thai pilgrims: Saudi Arabia has scrapped plans to fly Thai pilgrims to Makkah after receiving reports Thai workers sponsored by Iran in the Middle East had been given military training, senior Thai officials said on Friday.

Riyadh had planned to send eight planes to Thailand to carry Thais to the annual pilgrimage to Makkah next month.

It has cancelled those flights but will allow Thais to travel on other airlines, the officials said.

When push comes to shove: A Naples motorist wants the man who hit his parked car to pay damages because the accident made his girlfriend pregnant.

The bump caused him to "lose control", he said.

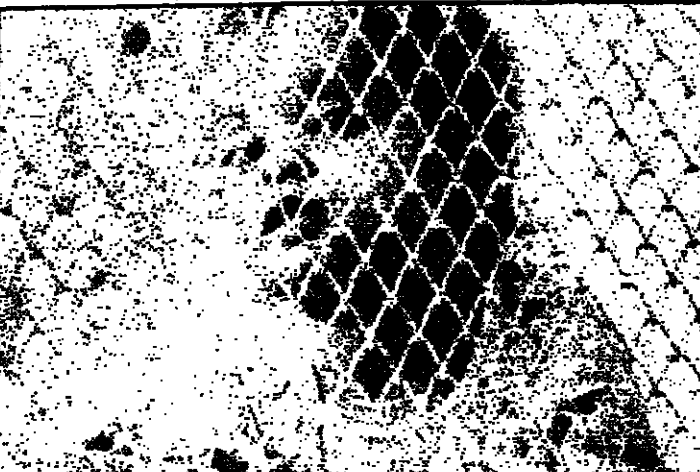
"We were minding our own business when we were hit by the other car and that's when my girlfriend became pregnant," he said in a claim on a Naples car insurance company.

He said that on March 10 they were in his small Fiat Panda overlooking the Bay of Naples when the parked Panda was hit by a larger Fiat Regata.

An insurance company spokesman said the man wanted damages because he and his girlfriend have to get married.

It would be a difficult case for loss adjusters to settle, she said, partly "because of the lack of photographic evidence."

Fastest general-purpose computer: Hitachi Ltd. of Japan said on Wednesday it has developed the world's fastest general-purpose computer.



Isolation

A Romanian baby girl, one of a dozen babies who have tested positive for Aids, lies in a steel mesh cot in an isolation ward at St Catherine's Children's Home in Bucharest on Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Argentine captain Diego Maradona, one of the world's best soccer players, had boasted before the World Cup's opening game that he was hungry for victory and would prove his critics wrong.

The international crowd in Meazza stadium was representative of the 24 nations competing in the month-long soccer tournament, and included the presidents of Italy, Argentina, Cameroon and Brazil.

Many of the Italian fans in the stadium greeted Maradona with whistles and jeers.

Maradona has tense relations with Milan soccer fans because of controversies during the Italian Soccer League's season.

(Continued on Page 32)

New 'racist' govt in Israel

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 8, (Reuters): Palestinian leaders in the occupied territories predict more conflict and oppression under the new government formed by Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir.

"Extreme racism and advocates of terrorism have become part of the Israeli establishment," said academic Hanan Mikha'il Ashrawi, reflecting widespread concern in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"It is clear that Israel has not cast its vote on the side of peace but is pursuing a policy of conflict and oppression."

But Faisal Al Hussein, the most senior pro-PLO figure in the territories, told Reuters, "we are ready to deal with this government. If it wants peace we are ready and if it seeks war it should know that no one can destroy the Palestinian uprising."

Shamir formed the most right-wing government in Israeli history today, a coalition of six rightist and religious parties.

It includes vocal anti-Arabs and hardliners such as former defence minister Ariel Sharon who says the government should "restore law and order" by crushing a 30-month Palestinian revolt in the occupied territories.

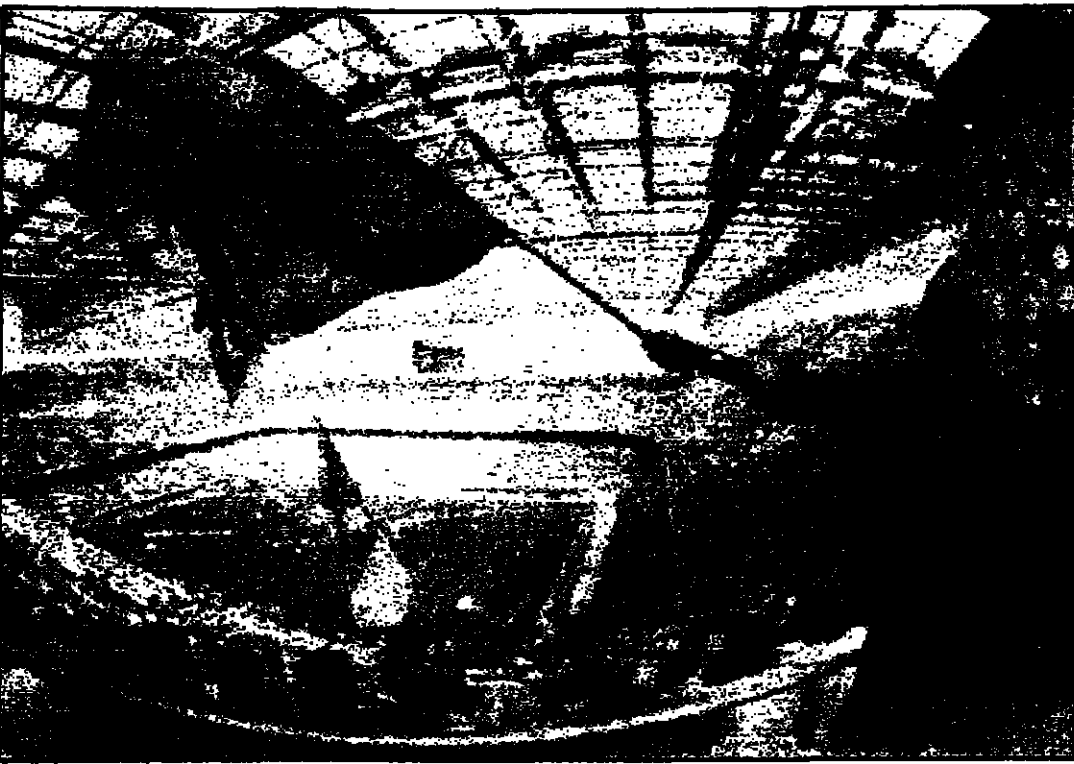
Saeed Erekat, another West Bank university professor, said: "When you drop the political option — and this government was formed to bury the peace option — it means the other option is conflict."

Some Palestinians said they worried more about an increase in Jewish settlements in the occupied territories than about more repression.

(See Page 9)



A Brazilian World Cup soccer fan wearing a wig, grimaces during a training session of the Brazilian squad in Asti, northern Italy on Thursday. (Reuters wirephoto)



A Cameroon soccer fan waves the national banner of his country during opening ceremony of the World Cup soccer in Milan's stadium yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kuwaitis go to polls tomorrow

348 run for 50 seats

KUWAIT, June 8, (Kuna): Some 62,000 Kuwaiti voters head to the polls tomorrow (Sunday) to elect 50 members to the 75-seat National Council, which HH the Amir authorised last April 22. The remaining 25 members will be appointed by the Amir.

According to the Amir's decree, the National Council is a provisional council, which will be entrusted with examining the negative aspects in the country's previous parliamentary experiences and setting up the necessary guidelines to guarantee national stability and unity.

The four-year council has the right to discuss draft projects referred to it from the cabinet and also propose projects of its own.

It is also authorised to monitor activities of government institutions, examine the final account of the state's financial administration and reports by the audit bureau and voice its views toward them.

With only a couple of days remaining before the elections, 348 candidates will be making their bids to win support of voters in 25 electoral districts.

Several ministries have taken part in the preparations for the June 10 elections. The Interior Ministry has set up 125 committees, including 100 sub-committees.

The Education Ministry has designated 50 schools as headquarters for the committees, while the Justice Ministry appointed heads of committees.

The Interior Ministry is considering introduction of a state-of-the-art election system where voters can vote just by touching the names of candidates on a computerised screen, according to head of the ministry's computerised data centre Fahd Jaafar.

Jaafar told Kuna in an interview the new system will be introduced in the United States and that he discussed it with US officials during his recent visit there.

The Interior Ministry official said, however, the new system is still being studied here and will not be employed in next Sunday's national council elections.

Elaborating on the new system, he said its use would be very easy for the layman and users need not have computer operation background.

Key advantages of the system will be greater security and absolute confidentiality, Jaafar said.

He added that the Interior Ministry's computer data centre can design and develop a similar

(Continued on Page 11)

Rebels kill Sayeed uncle

India considers Pakistan reply

NEW DELHI, June 8, (Agencies): India is seriously considering Pakistan's response to its initiative to defuse rising military tension in the subcontinent, a Foreign Office spokesman said today.

Pakistan has suggested that foreign secretaries of the two countries meet this month on the question of Kashmir.

Indian-ruled Kashmir, where Muslim militants are fighting for secession, lies at the heart of deteriorating ties between the two countries.

"The response is receiving our serious consideration," the Indian spokesman said. "Unfortunately, the Pakistani response is hedged by certain reservations, which is somewhat discouraging."

India, which accuses Pakistan of arming and training Kashmiri militants, has suggested to Pakistan that the two countries notify each other of military exercises and that their armed forces maintain close contacts.

Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Tasvir Ahmed Khan, while suggesting an urgent meeting with his Indian counterpart, said the Indian proposal failed to mention Kashmir.

A meeting between the two foreign secretaries was unlikely to take place as early as this month, official sources in New Delhi said.

India and Pakistan have already fought three wars, including two over Kashmir, since independence from Britain in 1947.

Meanwhile, militants battling New Delhi's rule of Kashmir have shot dead the uncle of Indian Home Minister Mufti Mohammad Sayeed in their

second attack on the minister's family.

Police said today six militants forced their way into the home of 70-year-old Ghulam Hassan Shah last night and killed him.

Shah lived in Sayeed's home village, Bijbehara, 40 km (25 miles) south of Jammu and Kashmir state's summer capital, Srinagar.

Days after Sayeed's appointment as India's first Muslim home (interior) minister in December, the militants kidnapped his daughter Rubiya.

They freed her in exchange for five of their jailed colleagues and turned the episode into a propaganda victory which helped ignite popular revolt in the Muslim-majority Kashmir valley.

In New Delhi, President Ramaswamy Venkataraman announced that Virendra Varma, a politician from Sayeed's Janata Dal Party, was the new governor of Punjab.

Today hundreds of Kashmiris demonstrated in Srinagar's old quarter, accusing security forces of shooting dead a two-year-old boy, Saqib Bashir.

The protesters said security forces, searching nearby homes after their vehicles were attacked yesterday, opened fire on Bashir's family. The boy was killed and his parents critically wounded, the demonstrators said.

Militants also attacked a waterfront hotel in Srinagar yesterday, shooting and wounding at least four Indian paramilitary policemen living at the resort as they swam in picturesque lake Dal.



Sulome, on her fifth birthday in Nicosia. In a letter she wrote to her father, she says: "I love you daddy, I pray for you" (Reuters wirephoto)

Russia moves toward greater sovereignty

Uzbek declares emergency

MOSCOW, June 8, (Agencies): The president of Soviet Uzbekistan said today ethnic violence was spreading in his republic from neighbouring Kirghizia and asked Moscow for help to prevent skirmishes degenerating into full-scale conflict.

Tass news agency said Islam Karimov imposed a state of emergency in a number of districts around Andizhan, on the border between the two republics, and appealed to Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev to help quell the fighting.

In Frunze, capital of Kirghizia, thousands of mourners poured silently

into the central square to honour the victims of four days of fighting between Uzbeks and Kirghiz which has killed at least 78.

The fighting erupted last Monday in the Kirghiz town of Osh over the allocation of land between the two ethnic groups.

"There is a real danger of the events in the Osh region degenerating into a conflict between the two republics," Karimov's message said.

Tass said the death toll since the outbreak of fighting had reached 78, with 330 injured.

Tass said the situation in Osh

remained tense and an official said there had been sporadic skirmishes near the town.

Lawmakers in the Russian republic took an initial step today toward greater sovereignty by approving a draft proclamation that would give their laws priority over central government legislation Tass said.

The preliminary vote by the Congress of People's Deputies of the Russian republic could set the giant republic on the road to sovereignty from national law and confrontation with Moscow.

I love you daddy Tears for Terry

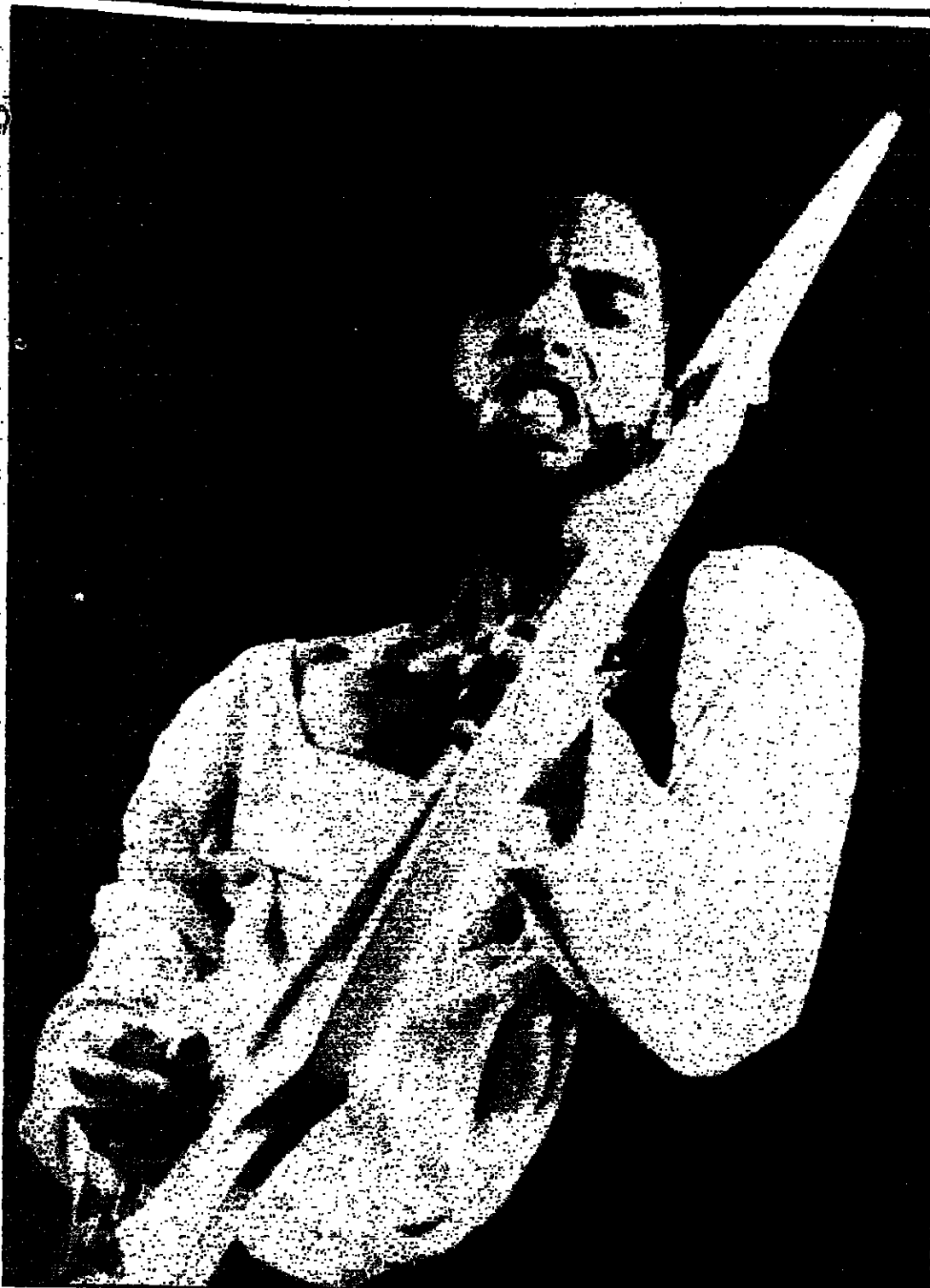
BEIRUT, June 8, (AP): Lebanon's eight daily newspapers yesterday published a letter to American journalist Terry Anderson, the longest-held Western captive from his daughter Sulome who was born after his abduction.

The prestigious An Nahar and four other dailies printed the original English text of the letter that Sulome addressed to her father on her fifth birthday in the hope that Anderson will be allowed to read it.

Sulome, in the letter addressed to "my darling daddy," wrote: "Tomorrow is my birthday. I will be five years old. I know you have never seen me."

"I also have never seen you, but my mummy tells me everything about you and how you used to call me an active little baby," the letter said.

"I love you daddy. I pray for you and the others every night," she concluded.



Prince in concert

US rock superstar, Prince gives the opening performance to his 1990 concert tour through West Germany before some 10,000 enthusiastic fans in the 'Ostsee-Halle' in Kiel on the evening of June 6. (Reuters wirephoto)

Jagger denies 'German affair'

LONDON, June 8, (AP): Mick Jagger denied today that he was romantically involved with a blonde German model who he said was "making the most of the few minutes with me" by giving interviews to reporters.

British tabloid newspapers had a field day today with a picture of the Rolling Stones' lead singer and his blonde, 24-year-old model Christina Haack and Jerry Hall, the Texas model and mother of his two children.

Several of the newspapers also showed a woman attempting to deliver a huge bouquet of flowers to Miss Hall's London home claiming they were the 47-year-old rock star's attempt to apologise.

Miss Haack told reporters she dated Jagger for three days while the Rolling Stones were on tour in Munich. She said they dined, he came home to her apartment and they were "very, very good friends."

Jagger said he only spoke with Miss Haack in a club for a few minutes and did not visit her apartment.

Madonna tops US charts

Second time in 'Vogue'

NEW YORK, June 8, (AP): Madonna and her new hit *Vogue* made it for the second time to the top of the pop singles record charts in the United States. The disc hit number one two weeks ago on the Cash Box magazine chart, slipped to second position last week, and now rallied back.

The top 10 singles, as rated by Cash Box magazine, with last week's positions in brackets:

1. (2) *Vogue* — Madonna (Sire-Warner Brothers).
2. (1) *Hold On* — Wilson Phillips (SDK).
3. (1) *All I Wanna Do* — Heart (Capitol).
4. (4) *Poison* — BBD (MCA).
5. (7) *Alright* — Janet Jackson (A and M).
6. (6) *It Must Have Been Love* — Roxette.
7. (8) *You Can't Touch This* — M.C. Hammer (Columbia).
8. (5) *Sending All My Love* — Linear (Atlantic).
9. (9) *Ooh La La* — Perfect Gentlemen (Columbia).
10. (10) *Nothing Compares To You* — Sinead O'Connor (Chrysalis).

This week's top singles, as listed by Our Price Music Ltd., the national music retail chain, with last week's positions in parentheses:

1. (2) *World In Motion* — England-New Order (Factory-MCA).
2. (1) *Killer* — Adamski (MCA).
3. (10) *Hear the Drummer* (Get Wicked) — Chad Jackson (Big Wave).
4. (6) *Venus* — Don Pablos Animals (Rumour).
5. (3) *Hold On* — En Vogue (Atlantic).
6. (24) *The Only One I Know* — Charlatans (Situation Two).

LONDON: The bookmaker William Hill, stopped taking bets Wednesday on who will be the next Archbishop of Canterbury after a flurry of interest and high-stakes bets were placed on a former dark horse among churchmen.

Since Dr Robert Runcie announced in March that he was stepping down as the Archbishop of Canterbury, there has been widespread public and press speculation over who will replace him a primate of the Church of England and spiritual leader of Anglicans world-wide.

The betting emporium said that on Wednesday before closing the book they turned down eight bets of between £300 and £1,000 (\$297 to \$995) on Rev. John Taylor, the 60-year-old bishop of St Albans. (AP)

AKRON, Ohio: The will of actress Greta Garbo is being contested by a nephew who is seeking a share of the estate, which is estimated to be worth hundreds of millions of dollars and left entirely to her niece.

Waterman said he received a signed contract in Monday's mail from Sven Ake Fredriksson of Oxelesund, Sweden.

Garbo, who died April 15 in New York at the age of 84, left her estate to a niece, Gray Reisfeld of Milltown, New Jersey, who also is Fredriksson's half-sister. The lawyer said Reisfeld and Fredriksson are Garbo's only living blood heirs.

Waterman estimated the value of Garbo's estate at hundreds of millions of dollars. However, documents filed with the will in New York City surrogate's court said only that the estate was worth more than \$500,000. (UPI)

LAKELAND, Florida: For his 20 years of service, city employee James Moran was awarded a plaque and a certificate for a free dinner for two.

After three lobster tails, 33 orders of jumbo shrimp cocktail, four dozen steamed oysters and an assortment of steaks and other seafood, Moran and his date amassed a \$510 bill — and the city was stuck with the tab.

"When somebody goes out and does something like this it's a shame," city manager Gese Strickland said Tuesday. "It absolutely flabbergasted me.... It only takes one person to mess up a good programme for everyone else."

Moran's supervisors at Lakeland Electric and Water also were not amused. They recommended he be fired from his \$38,771-a-year job. (AP)

LONDON: The mayor of a northern English town brandished a kitchen knife and threatened to castrate a gas worker drilling the road outside her house, a court heard on Thursday.

Vera Lomax, 49, infuriated by the noise from the pneumatic drill, shouted at the worker and warned him she "liked sweetmeats for breakfast."

Lomax, mayor of Rochdale, told the court she had received assertiveness training and admitted to being "self-righteous and prissy" at times. (Reuters)

MADISON, Wisconsin: A 45-year-old man wants court permission to marry his 23-year-old adopted daughter because they have developed a relationship "in the romantic sense."

James Salt adopted James Christen Caylor two years ago when she was 21. The father and daughter are petitioning a judge to overturn the adoption so they can get married.

"The original reason for this adult adoption was that I had nobody in my life and Janet had nobody in her life after having lived for years in a foster home and with a father who had eventually left her life and a mother who had disappeared when Janet was but a small child," Salt said in a petition filed with the court.

Salt explained there was "no romantic relationship" at the time of the adoption but that over the last several months "it has become apparent to each of us that we are in love in the romantic sense." (UPI)

CHARLOTTE, North Carolina: A man who wed his World War II sweetheart nine months ago after a 47-year separation said a sea of US government red tape is now keeping him and his bride an ocean apart.

"Everybody says they can't believe this stuff is going on," said George Ramsey, a 66-year-old retired truck driver. "All the time she's crying, and those phone bills are going up like hell. It's the damndest thing I ever heard of."

"All I want to do is get back to Charlotte and my husband," Millicent Ramsey, 61, told the Charlotte Observer in Thursday's edition.

Millicent has been stuck in London since she returned home on Feb. 17 to attend a relative's 50th wedding anniversary and stayed past the deadline to return to the US when another relative became ill. (UPI)

CHICAGO: The original Playboy mansion, home to lavish parties in the days when Hugh Hefner was master of the house, is for sale for \$6 million, its new owners said on Wednesday.

The buyer will get 72 rooms, including a bowling alley and an indoor tropical lagoon swimming pool.

Playboy donated the 87-year-old building on a prime piece of real estate to the Art Institute of Chicago in 1984.

The art institute used the building as a dormitory but said it proved to be an inefficient project given the cost of the upkeep and the fact that only about 30 students were housed there.

Hefner, founder of the Playboy magazine and club empire, moved out of the mansion nearly 20 years ago when he moved to California to a new mansion. (Reuters)

PEOPLE AND PLACES



Blues great Buddy Guy pats Clapton on the back during the rock awards in New York on June 6. (Reuters wirephoto)

Clapton wins an 'Elvis'

Second international rock award

NEW YORK, June 8, (UPI): Bluesy rock legend Eric Clapton kicked off a live multi-city broadcast of the second international rock awards and minutes later walked off with an "Elvis" as the world's most valuable guitarist.

The ceremony, broadcast live by the ABC television network, originated from a Manhattan armory and featured David Bowie singing "Suffragette City" from London. Winners in 10 categories walked off with statues of a young Elvis Presley and presenters pointedly dubbed each prize an "Elvis."

Pepper-tongued comedian Sam Kinison co-hosted with actor Gary Busey, and the controversial comic vowed to avoid the kind of language that earned Andrew Dice Clay a lifetime ban from MTV during presentation of the video music awards.

Clapton, however, was the first to give broadcast censors fits.

After playing the night's first live performance with another blues guitar legend, Buddy Guy, Clapton accepted his award with a modest, "I'm too old for this."

Clapton also took the "living legend of the year" award.

"Tour of the year" winners, the Rolling Stones, were shown stomping out their special brand of rock 'n' roll in front of the Berlin Wall in a video of their recently completed world tour. Charlie Watts also

was named the world's best drummer.

Aerosmith, Paul McCartney, Bon Jovi, and the who also were nominated for "tour of the year."

The evening's first "Elvis" went to Alannah Myles, named "Newcomer of the year" against nominees Bad English, Lenny Kravitz, Skid Row, and Stone Roses.

Aerosmith captured "Artist of the year" against nominees Fine Young Cannibals, the Rolling Stones, Bonnie Raitt and the B-52s.

Lou Reed presented the award for "album of the year" to Tom Petty for "Full Moon Fever."

Petty Beat out Aerosmith, the Stones, the Fine Young Cannibals and former Eagle Don Henley for best album.

Other presenters for the awards — whose nominees are drawn from the ranks of Top 40 radio and are primarily middle-of-the-road rockers — include Laurie Anderson, Iggy Pop, Patty Smyth, and Bo Diddley.

"Late night with David Letterman" musician Paul Shaffer joined model Christie Brinkley in presenting the "Elvis" for best keyboards to Brinkley's husband, Billy Joel.

Joel beat out Elton John and Kate Bush. Bonnie Raitt, who recently won four Grammys, continued her winning ways by waking the most valuable female award.

Jackson suffered cartilage swelling

LOS ANGELES, June 8, (Reuters): Pop star Michael Jackson has left hospital, five days after being admitted with chest pains, a hospital supervisor said.

Jackson's doctor Mark Zisk said the singer, who left hospital late yesterday but was expected to return for outpatient treatment, had bruised his ribs during a vigorous dance rehearsal.

Jackson, 31, has undergone a lot of stress recently, with the deaths of his grandmother and close friend Sammy Davis Jr. his publicity agent Bob Jones said.

"He is very concerned about his physical condition because we have an album well overdue," Jones added. Jackson's current album is seven weeks behind schedule.

Jackson visited close friend Elizabeth Taylor before leaving St John's hospital. The film star has been in hospital for seven weeks with pneumonia.

The cause of Jackson's condition had been a mystery since he was admitted with the chest pain Sunday night. Tests revealed that he was suffering from costochondritis, or a cartilage inflammation affecting the front part of his ribs, said Jones.

"When tests were finally conducted, the extensive tests and X-rays revealed no physical abnormalities other than the inflammation," Jones said. Jackson is expected to receive further treatment "probably within 48 hours," Jones said.

He said the inflammation can be caused by "over-exertion and stress and is usually extremely painful."

The clean-living, lean popstar, who shuns alcohol, cigarettes and junk food, has no history of serious health problems.

Jackson ventured from his singing brothers, the Jackson 5, with the Grammy-winning solo album "Off the Wall" in 1980. He has recorded only two albums in the past seven years — "Thriller" in 1983 and "Bad" in 1987. The albums sold a combined 60 million-plus copies, earning him an estimated \$100 million.

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INTERNATIONAL

Peru poll indicates Fujimori, Llosa tie

LIMA, June 8, (UPI): Polls showed a virtual tie yesterday between the two candidates going into Sunday's decisive second-round vote to pick a president who will face the twin challenges of runaway inflation and a savage guerrilla war.

The polls showed a difference of not more than 4 percentage points between the candidates, novelist Mario Vargas Llosa and agriculture engineer Alberto Fujimori.

The polls were the first since a nationally broadcast debate Sunday, the first televised debate in Peruvian history, that appeared to give Vargas Llosa a boost as the campaign entered the final week.

The campaign has shaped up a conflict between the two candidates plans over how to tame Peru's inflation, which ran at 7.75 per cent in 1989 and is still rising.

A poll in Peru's largest cities by the public opinion research firm Apoyo showed Vargas Llosa with 42.9 per cent of the vote, followed by 41.5 per cent for Fujimori.

"We should consider: this very positive news but still recognize that we still need to do better to overcome the majority Fujimori may still have in the countryside", said an internal Vargas Llosa campaign memorandum.

The other poll, a nationwide voter sample by the Peruano de Opinion Publica research organization, had Fujimori winning by 4 per cent. The total vote percentages for each candidate were not provided by the company.

Fujimori, the son of Japanese immigrants, surged from a virtual unknown in the last two weeks before an April 8 first-round vote to capture second place with 24 per cent and the right to face Vargas Llosa in the Sunday election.

Vargas Llosa, an internationally known novelist, won 27 per cent of the April vote. He considered quitting the race because he did not achieve the first-round victory he had sought as a mandate to make the deep economic changes he advocates but decided to continue.



Collor burns arm, face

Brazilian President Fernando Collor de Mello threw a flaming torch onto a pile of drugs to destroy them and slightly burned his right arm and face, officials said on Wednesday.

The incident happened on Tuesday when Collor was visiting a farm in the region of Aquidauana in the central Mato Grosso do Sul state.

Television film showed large flames leaping up after Collor threw the torch onto a 1,500-pound (700-kg) pile of marijuana and cocaine to destroy the drugs.

Collor, in office since March, has shown a taste for

dangerous sports such as riding fast motorcycles.

"Mr President, don't go any closer", an army officer shouted vainly but too late as the chief executive approached the piles of drugs and threw in the torch in a ceremony that was reported Wednesday by all major newspapers and television stations.

The inflammable material exploded, and the president, his hair singed and his right arm slightly burned, was forced to run back from the flames.

The accident forced the president to cancel a speech on his steps to combat drug trafficking. (Reuters wirephoto)

CIA drug link Attorney to probe

LOS ANGELES, June 8, (UPI): A defence attorney in the Enrique Camarena murder trial sought yesterday to question a US man once employed by a Mexican drug baron about whether the CIA had sanctioned Mexican drug-trafficking activities in the mid-1980s.

His attorney, Mary Kelly, asked the witness, Victor Lorenzo Harrison, a former radio technician with the Directorate of Federal Security, the Mexican counterpart to the CIA, whether a high-ranking DFS commander had worked with the CIA.

Harrison testified that a commander, Nazario Haro, had been involved in drug trafficking in

UK beef ban to end, deal signed

BRUSSELS, June 8, (Reuters): European Economic Community farm ministers agreed yesterday to tighten measures to curb "mad cow" disease and France, West Germany and Italy promised to lift their bans on imports of British beef immediately.

"All of us must be very relieved that ... that we have succeeded in achieving a united position and the lifting of these unilateral measures," EEC Agriculture Commissioner Ray MacSharry said after crisis talks that went through the night and most of the day.

West Germany had sent telexes to its states lifting its ban, and France and Italy had pledged to follow suit, MacSharry told a news conference.

The row erupted when Britain's EEC partners blocked imports of beef, citing concerns that the cattle brain disease Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE) might spread to humans.

Britain accused them of trying to protect their own farmer rather than the health of their consumers, but Paris, Bonn and Rome insisted that not enough was known about the disease to guarantee British beef was safe.

The dispute threatened to develop into a major trade conflict within the 12-nation community just as the bloc prepares to become a barrier-free single market by the end of 1992.

The United States was also watching the outcome closely for signs the deal could have an effect on its long-running row with the community over its ban on the sale of hormone-treated beef, which has hit US exports.

Diplomats said the final deal, in classic community style, would allow all sides to claim victory.

"It's a very, very much more satisfactory answer than we thought we would get yesterday," said British Agriculture Minister John Gummer.

The key point of the agreement is that Britain will now have to certify that exported bone-in beef comes from herds where there has not been an outbreak of BSE in the last two years of BSE, which was first discovered in 1986.

Boneless beef can be exported provided Britain certifies certain types of nerves and tissues most susceptible to carrying the disease are removed from the meat. BSE attacks the brain and nervous tissues of beef cattle.

Live cattle can be exported only if younger than six months and certified not to be offspring of a cow suspected of BSE.

Britain has 150,000 herds of cattle and BSE has been identified in 7,500 of them, British officials say.

Vaccine to fight Aids

Further clinical tests must be conducted

WASHINGTON, June 8, (AP): Researchers at Johns Hopkins University have shown that a vaccine produced by genetic engineering fights the virus that produces Aids, according to a report published yesterday.

The vaccine uses gene-splicing techniques to produce a chain of proteins mimicking a portion of the surface of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV), the cause of Aids.

The test vaccine is a long way from being shown to be a possible weapon against Aids. Further clinical tests, which could take years to complete, must be conducted before the vaccine could be used.

Vaccines against viruses usually are made of the whole virus, crippled

so that it cannot cause the disease in question, or a killed virus.

Writing in Science, the journal of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the Johns Hopkins team said, "although the induction of virus-specific ... (virus-fighting) responses is traditionally associated with attenuated live-virus vaccines, our results demonstrate that envelope protein sub-unit vaccines, which have greater inherent simplicity and safety, may also induce" the desired activity.

The candidate vaccine was injected into eight volunteers four times over 18 months.



Kevorkian displays the suicide machine in this February 1990 file photo. (Reuters wirephoto)

Suicide machine criticised

Pathologist actions violated ethical code

PONTIAC, Michigan, June 8, (UPI): Members of the Michigan medical community condemned a pathologist and his "death machine", for helping the suicide of an Oregon woman suffering from Alzheimer's disease.

William Howe, director of the Michigan Health Bureau, said his office has started an investigation of Dr Jack Kevorkian, who told ABC's "Night Line" Wednesday night that he did not charge Jane Adkins a fee to connect her to the machine that claimed her life by lethal injection.

An Oakland county circuit court judge scheduled a hearing for today to hear arguments from Kevorkian and from prosecutors who want to stop him from doing it again.

Kevorkian noted that an injunction would apply only to Oakland County because that is where Adkins died, in the back of a van.

"I could make another machine in a little while," Kevorkian said.

Kevorkian said Adkins, 54, of Portland, pressed a button on the homemade suicide machine that allowed intravenous doses of three different drugs to combine and form potassium chloride which stopped her heart within minutes.

Authorities confiscated the machine after they found Adkins dead. No charges were filed against Kevorkian pending an investigation. He notified authorities after Adkins died.

Kevorkian's methods were condemned by Michigan physicians.

"I would have to say that Dr Kevorkian's approach is veterinary medicine and that we as human beings are not animals," said Dr John W. Finn, director of the Hospice of southern Michigan.

She died with indignity. She was alone in the back of a van in a park with this machine and this doctor. That's no way to die.

Last July, Finn supervised the removal of life-support systems for David Rivlin, a quadriplegic whose attending physician refused to remove the respirator. Finn said the two cases are not comparable.

"What happened to David Rivlin was not an assisted suicide and was not lethal injection," Finn said. "It was removing a medical device he no longer wanted. He was able to say his goodbyes. His teeth were shed, photos were passed, his favourite music was played, and it was in the home of his dearest friend."

Medical file

Left-handed children: Children born to women in their 30s and 40s appear significantly more likely to be left-handed than those born to younger women, a Canadian researcher said Wednesday.

A study of 2,228 college freshmen found those whose mothers were aged 40 and above when they were born had more than twice the rate of left-handedness as those whose mothers were between 17 and 29, said Stanley Coren of the University of British Columbia in Vancouver.

Coren said maternal age had no apparent effect on the incidence of left-handedness in the students whose mothers were aged 17 to 24 when they were born. About 10 per cent of all people are predominantly left-handed.

However, as mothers get older, "there is a gradual increase in the relative risk of left-handedness" in their offspring, Coren said in a letter to the New England Journal of Medicine, (UPI)

Weight gain backed: An expert committee on Wednesday recommended a weight gain of 25 to 35 pounds (11-16 kg) during pregnancy to reduce the risk of a low birth-weight baby without adversely affecting the health of the mother.

The committee of the Institute of Medicine, a part of the National Academy of Sciences in Washington, added that normal women eating a balanced diet require no vitamin pills during pregnancy apart from a low dose of iron daily.

The panel's views update a similar report issued 20 years ago that told women to gain 20 to 25 pounds (9-11 kg) during pregnancy.

The latest recommendations are based on a large body of new evidence indicating that weight gain, particularly between the fourth and ninth months of pregnancy, is an important determinant in foetal growth, the panel said.

Too little weight gain during pregnancy has been linked to infant death and retarded growth.

The panel said that underweight women should try to gain even more weight - 25 to 40 pounds (11-18 kg) - while overweight women should limit their gain to 15 to 25 pounds (7-11 kg). Even obese women should gain at least 15 pounds, it added. (Reuters)

Genital warts: Genital and anal warts in children can be caused by skin viruses as well as genital viruses common to adults and should not be used as evidence of sexual abuse, doctors said on Friday.

In the United States, discovery of genital warts in a child usually triggers investigation for possible sexual abuse because it is generally assumed they can only be contracted by sexual transmission.

Doctors from John Radcliffe Hospital and St. John's Hospital in Oxford, using sophisticated analysis techniques, determined that in six out of 17 cases studied the virus that caused the child's warts was associated with skin viruses which can be transmitted in a variety of ways.

Evidence links Noriega to alien smuggling plot

MIAMI, June 8, (UPI): Immigration and border patrol investigators said they have evidence linking deposed Panamanian leader Manuel Noriega to selling fake visas and passports and smuggling illegal aliens to the United States.

"He was involved and could be charged," Robert Harris, chief investigator for the US Immigration and Naturalisation Service in Miami, said Wednesday. "We can go and seek an indictment."

But federal prosecutors in Miami, who are seeking to convict the deposed Panamanian leader on

drug smuggling charges, said there is not enough proof to charge Noriega with immigration crimes.

"There is no indictment against Gen. Noriega, nor is there one contemplated for allegations of alien smuggling," said US attorney Dexter Lehtinen.

Harris reiterated allegations made earlier this year by the new Panamanian government, which said Noriega converted Panama's immigration service into a cash machine that generated tens of millions of dollars annually by selling false passports and visas.



Digital/NCS Seminar



Digital Equipment Corporation, in conjunction with its sole authorized distributor, National Computer Services (NCS) held recently a seminar at the Sheraton Hotel outlining the trends in Computer Industry and Digital strategies in the 90's.

The theme of the seminar was, as hardware technology improves throughout the industry, the ability of vendors to provide an Open Computing Environment becomes more and more significant. Digital has been building on the Open Systems Model for years and will continue to strengthen its position in this direction in the 90's.

The seminar was attended by top management and professionals from leading government and private organizations.



California gubernatorial candidate Dianne Feinstein holds up a newspaper declaring her the winner of the June 5 Democratic primary en route to Los Angeles for a June 8 news conference. Feinstein became the first woman representing a major party in California to run for governor in the November election. (Reuters wirephoto)

(Story Page 8)

EEC vows to end hazardous waste exports

LUXEMBOURG, June 8, (Reuters): The European Economic Community yesterday pledged to stop exporting hazardous waste and most other kinds of refuse, and to keep transport of such waste within its borders to a minimum, diplomats said.

EEC environment ministers, meeting in Luxembourg, agreed to step up waste prevention and recycling and to tighten rules for refuse disposal.

Diplomats said the ministers agreed the 12-nation community should have facilities to dispose of its entire mountain of industrial and household waste - estimated at some 1.1 billion tonnes a year - and not export it abroad.

They said refuse should be disposed of at the nearest site available - the main methods are incineration and dumping in vast landfills - instead of being transported around.

Yoma Menem has no plans of leaving presidential residence despite marital feud

BUENOS AIRES, June 8, (Reuters): Argentine First Lady Zulema Yoma de Menem yesterday compared the presidential residence with a jail, adding that pillow-talk with her husband President Carlos Menem was out of the question because he plays tennis "into the wee hours and then falls asleep."

Yoma, 47, told reporters she invited for lunch at the Olivos presidential residence that she had no plans of leaving her home despite her marital problems.

"This is my domicile. This is where I live

with my children and I am not leaving... but it's like a jail," said the blonde Yoma, who did not allow reporters to tape her comments, according to private radio station Radio America.

Local press reports say President Menem has not slept at the official residence for nearly one month, spending nights in friends' houses, offices and even in hospitals.

Yoma said she could never talk to her husband by herself because there was always someone else around Menem.

"The president's friends stay around playing tennis into the wee hours and then he falls asleep. There is no time for words," Yoma said.

Menem, 59, last week left on a 12-day, round-the-world trip, as his marital problems were aired in local media. Today he will attend the inauguration of the 1990 soccer World Cup playoffs in Milan.

Menem later acknowledged that his marriage was in trouble. "My marriage is not working, but that does not mean it's on

fire," the Peronist leader told Telemundo.

He refused to say if he will divorce Yoma, saying that "only time will tell."

Yoma added yesterday that her marriage will prevail despite the corruption in her husband's government.

"Next year is my silver (25th) wedding anniversary and we are going to celebrate it. God willing," Zulema told a group of reporters, including one from United Press International, over lunch yesterday at the presidential compound in the Olivos neighbourhood of Buenos Aires.

Canada talks reach critical phase

OTTAWA, June 8, (Reuters): After the fifth consecutive day, Canada's constitutional talks have reached a make-or-break phase, according to Prime Minister Brian Mulroney.

"We're getting pretty close to having to fish or cut bait," Mulroney said after yesterday's talks. "What is at stake is the future of Canada."

Manitoba Premier Gary Filmon, one of the leaders opposed to the so-called Meech Lake Accord to amend the constitution, said the talks were at an impasse over a clause in the accord recognising the French-speaking province of Quebec as a distinct society.

Quebec leaders are threatening to separate from Canada if the Meech Lake deal to

amend the 1982 constitution is not approved by the June 23 deadline.

The talks will continue today but the premiers of Canada's 10 provinces emerged from another long bargaining session tempering their enthusiasm that a deal could be struck to prevent the country from breaking up.

"I think we hit the low point. Tomorrow we will hit the high point," predicted British Columbia Premier Bill Vander Zalm.

"I think there is a solution and we're looking for it," said Premier David Peterson, head of the most populous province, Ontario.

But in a surprise move, Robert Bourassa, premier of Quebec, announced he would no

longer be present in negotiations when discussing the Meech Lake clause recognising Quebec as distinct.

"Enough is enough," said Bourassa, who is under intense pressure at home not to give up any gains won at Meech Lake.

The accord, named after the government's retreat in Quebec, was drawn up in June for ratification within three years.

It accorded Quebec special powers to protect its heritage in order to receive the province's endorsement of Canada's 1982 constitution which cut the last colonial ties with Britain. Quebec refused to sign the new constitution.

IPI strongly condemns assault on press men

LONDON, June 8, (UPI): The International Press Institute Thursday condemned China, the Soviet Union, India, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and El Salvador for inadequate protection of press personnel, who in some incidents have been detained, assaulted and murdered.

The Zurich-based organisation called on Beijing to explain the whereabouts of 20 Chinese journalists arrested since communist authorities last June staged a fierce crackdown on a pro-democracy movement.

In a letter to Chinese Prime Minister Li Peng, IPI also condemned Chinese security personnel for this week's assaults of five Western reporters who were covering the first anniversary of the bloodshed around Beijing's Tiananmen Square.

"We are dismayed that many of your government's actions against the media over the last year show a clear disregard for internationally recognised standards of press freedom, including article 19 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights," IPI director Peter Galtner said.

In an incident on Monday, Chinese officers pulled to the ground and repeatedly kicked Richard Ellis, an American national employed as a photographer for Reuters News Service. An officer took one of his cameras and smashed it on the ground.

Ellis in a telephone interview said no attempt was made to arrest him, and the assault was apparently part of a strategy of harassment.

Chinese authorities had responded to official complaints by alleging the Western press was "plotting with hardcore elements from last year's turmoil," he said.

"They were just going wild," Ellis said. "For two days it was a daily event. Everyone was being questioned at gunpoint. The word is circulating that (security personnel) are to intimidate the foreign press and that everything is allowed except for killing them."

The IPI sent complaints to three South Asian nations about press harassment.

It requested Pakistan Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto to investigate and prosecute those responsible for murdering three reporters in Sindh province, which is afflicted by clashes between rival ethnic groups.

The institute called on Girish Saxena, the governor of India's northern Jammu and Kashmir state, to locate Yusef Jameel, a freelance reporter for Reuters and the British Broadcasting Corp.



Tornado devastates

A tornado devastated a commercial strip and a trailer park in the farming community of Limon, injuring at least 12 people, authorities said Thursday. Warning sirens apparently alerted more serious casualties.

Sirens wailed in Limon for 10 minutes before the twister struck Wednesday night, giving residents time to take shelter, officials and survivors said.

Three guests at the Lariat Hotel piled into their bathtub and pulled a mattress over themselves after the sirens went off.

"We were doing a lot of praying in that bathtub," said David Thomas, 27.

The tornado tore their room apart. "It felt like somebody just reached down and squeezed your whole body. My eardrums were coming out," Thomas said.

The town hall, a bank, a supermarket, a video store and a nightclub also were destroyed along main street in this town of 1,800 people 80 miles (130 kilometres) from Denver.

Most businesses were closed at the time. Ten people in the nightclub were saved by taking refuge in the bar's cooler, a witness said.

Residential areas were largely spared. But resident Bernard Goetz said most of the 20 to 25 homes at a trailer park on the edge of town were damaged or destroyed.

Rocket

Titan blasts off with army cargo

CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida, June 8, (AP): America's mightiest unmanned space rocket, a Titan 4, blasted off on a classified military mission early today with a national security payload.

The rocket lifted up the sky as it thundered into orbit after its 1.22am (0522 GMT) launch from Cape Canaveral air force station.

The air force refused to discuss or even acknowledge the flight until about 20 minutes after liftoff when a statement was issued. The rocket's payload was not disclosed.

John Pike director of the federation of American scientists' space policy project said the rocket's cargo most likely is a \$300-million electronic eavesdropping satellite capable of intercepting missile telemetry.

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Solar system 'family portrait' released

'Picture of the century' shows Earth, 5 planetary neighbours

WASHINGTON, June 8, (UPI): Unprecedented photos taken by NASA's aging Voyager 1 probe were released Wednesday showing Earth and five of its planetary neighbours as mere pinpoints of light in the "velvet blackness of space," a stirring alien's eye view of humanity's home planet.

The once-in-a-lifetime "family portrait" of the solar system's planets, dubbed the "picture of the century" by some astronomers, were the last photos that will ever be taken by the Hardy probe, said Voyager project scientist Edward Stone of the California Institute of Technology.

Voyager 1 snapped the pictures at a distance of 3.7 billion miles (6 billion km) from the sun, a parting shot as the nuclear-powered probe sails out of the solar system.

Astronomer Carl Sagan said the mosaic "underscores the rarity and preciousness of the Earth and the life upon it."

"The portrait of the planets that was now been taken is, it seems to me, in the same tradition as the extraordinary photographs of the whole Earth taken by the Apollo astronauts on their way to the moon, which for the first time gave everyone a sense of the Earth as a small blue-and-white world set in the velvet blackness of space."

"For many people, it underlines the vulnerability and fragility of the Earth. It seems to me this portrait of the solar system has some similar feeling."

The mosaic did not include Mercury, Mars and Pluto, which were not visible from Voyager 1's perspective.

Earth and Venus showed up as mere pinpricks of light as did Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus and Neptune. Sagan said the tiny image of Earth had a slightly bluish tint.

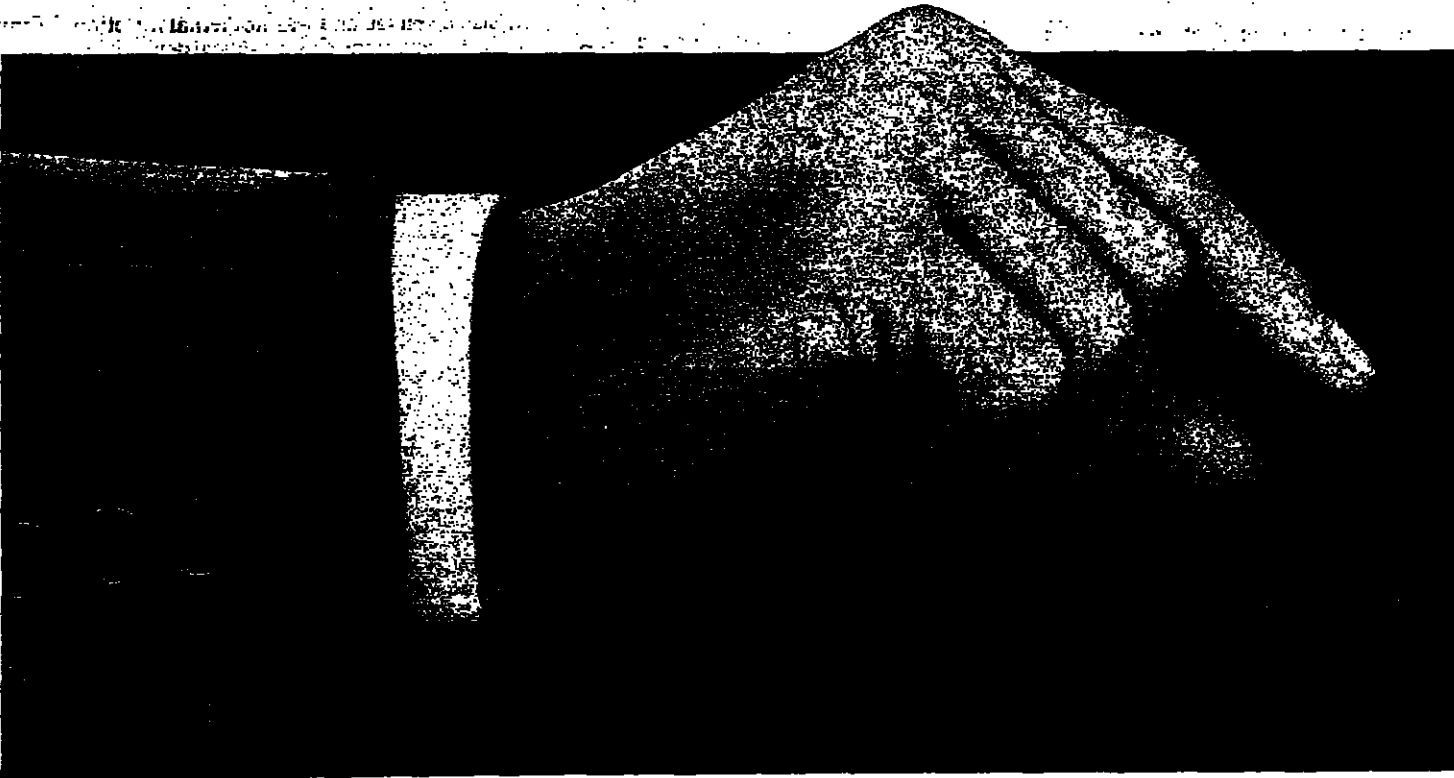
"On that blue dot, that's where everyone you know... and every human being who ever

lived lived out their lives," Sagan said. "It's a very small stage in a great cosmic arena. I think this perspective underscores our responsibility to preserve and cherish that blue dot, the only home we have."

The photos, snapped by the Voyager 1 spacecraft Feb. 13, show Earth, Venus, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and the sun as tiny white dots against a vast black background.

"It shows you how insignificant we are," said spokesman Jurrie van der Woude of the Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena. "It may not be a photograph that makes you say, 'wow'. But when you look at it, it's a sobering thought that we're so small."

The pictures are among more than 60 images taken by the Voyager 1 spacecraft as the hardy probe sailed toward the outer reaches of the solar system, providing an unprecedented view of Earth's home.



Shootings in Dallas

Senate gives up on crime bill

DALLAS, June 8, (Reuters): In the past three weeks 18 people have been shot by gunmen firing from passing cars and police in Dallas fear they may be powerless to stop a trend.

"It's sort of like stopping the tide in the ocean," Captain Dennis Rhoten of the suburban Arlington police department said. "You're not going to stop drive-by shootings any more than you're going to stop robberies."

The crime has been common in other US cities, most notably Los Angeles.

"It has always been the way of gangs in Los Angeles to pay each other back by shooting from cars, but apparently we've caught the plague," an Arlington police official told Reuters yesterday.

Many of the shootings have been gang-related, but police are appalled that several of the shootings were apparently random attacks, including two elementary school children gunned down while running on a playground.

Some residents say they have started staying home at night and are afraid to enter city parks or other outdoor public areas.

"I don't know if it's safe to go outside anymore,"

said a woman whose grandson was shot in the head in a drive-by attack. "It seems like it's all around us."

In the latest incident, an 18-year-old man was shot in the chest on Wednesday while on an outing in a park with friends. Police said they believe the shooting may have been a random attack.

The string of so-called drive-by shootings began on May 16 when a 22-year-old man was shot in the back in an east Dallas gang-related shooting.

Since the wave of shootings began, 18 people were shot, two fatally. At least four of the victims were apparently picked at random and were not known by their attackers.

The US Senate yesterday gave up efforts to pass a controversial election-year crime bill that would toughen gun controls and expand the federal death penalty after a second try to cut off debate failed.

The 57-37 vote was three senators short of the 60 needed under Senate rules to limit debate. The first attempt on Tuesday to end debate was six voters short.

Opponents tried to kill the bill by offering more than 300 amendments. Senate leaders said it would be dropped if debate could not be ended, even though a majority favoured the bill.

Kennedy, Cuomo kin to marry

ALBANY, New York, June 8, (AP): Two rising stars from prominent US political families will wed this weekend.

Kerry Kennedy, a daughter of the late senator and presidential hopeful Robert F. Kennedy and Andrew Cuomo, oldest son of New York Gov. Mario Cuomo will be the bride and groom tomorrow.

"Everybody in the world knows the Kennedy family," said William Cunningham, a veteran Cuomo political adviser. "And the Cuomos — in New York state, in the political world — are at the top of the heap."

But Cunningham cautioned against blowing the wedding's importance out of proportion.

"This isn't the middle ages where the Duke of Normandy and the Duke of Avignon get together and decide on a marriage," he said. "This is not a dynastic accomplishment, this is two people who decided to get married."

More than 250 guests have been invited to witness the ceremony tomorrow afternoon in the Cathedral of St. Matthew in Washington DC.

Rory Kennedy, Kerry's youngest sister will be maid of honour. Christopher Cuomo, Andrews' 19-year-old brother will be best man. John F. Kennedy Jr. Kerry's cousin and son of the late president will be an usher.



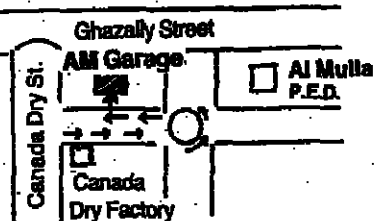
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Blacks, whites rap Klerk move

JOHANNESBURG, June 8, (AP) President F. W. de Klerk's decision to end the state of emergency has come under attack by militant blacks who called it a "half measure" and right-wing whites who said he's gone too far.

De Klerk's announcement yesterday that the government was lifting the 4-year-old emergency in three of the country's four provinces formally takes effect at midnight tonight. The move ends some of the harshest political restrictions ever imposed by the country's white rulers and should help clear the way for black-white negotiations on dismantling apartheid.

The Cape Times said the action will have "a steady effect at home, while once more demonstrations to the world his firm commitment to a negotiated settlement."

"Even for the cynics, the lifting of the state of emergency will mean more space, however small, has been cleared for political activity," said the Sowetan, a black-oriented newspaper.

However De Klerk came under fire from his political opponents on the right and left.

The pro-apartheid Conservative Party said the end of the emergency would lead to chaos and further alienate right-wing whites.

Conservative leader Andries Treurnicht said government should have required the African National Congress, the country's most powerful black group, to renounce its armed struggle before the emergency was lifted.

De Klerk said that the emergency will remain in place in violence-torn Natal province and 10,000 policemen will be added to the national force over the next year.

African National Congress leader Walter Sisulu said the emergency had done nothing to stop the fighting in Natal, where about 4,000 blacks have died in the past four years. The main combatants are supporters of the ANC and members of Inkatha, a relatively conservative Zulu organisation.

The ANC has said the lifting of the emergency, the release of political prisoners and the return of exiles are the main obstacles to full negotiations on power sharing.

De Klerk wants to work out a new constitution with opposition groups that will lead to power-sharing between the 5 million whites and 28 million black, who under apartheid have no voice in national affairs.

The United States welcomed South Africa's decision to lift emergency rule in most areas but said it had still not fulfilled the conditions necessary for Washington to lift economic sanctions against the white minority government. (Reuters)

A pro-apartheid candidate made a surprisingly strong showing in a special parliamentary election Wednesday seen by some as a referendum on De Klerk's reforms.

Piet Matthee, the candidate for De Klerk's ruling National Party, defeated Francis Hitchcock of the pro-apartheid Conservative Party. (AP)



R-L: Mitterand, Mandela, Winnie and Danielle Manen, a crowd prior to the start of the human rights concert at the Trocadero esplanade, June 8, under driving rain. (Reuters wirephoto)

Mandela: curbs must continue

Schedule cut back

GENEVA, June 8, (Agencies): Nelson Mandela today called for the continuation of Western economic sanctions to hasten the end of South Africa's apartheid system but also said the country would need massive Western aid in the future.

"Sanctions were imposed as a peaceful means to end apartheid," the black leader told the annual conference of the 150-nation International Labour Organisation. "Given the fact that apartheid has not ended, it is only logical that we should continue this weapon of struggle."

But he added that the economy of South Africa would in future need "massive international intervention if we are to move forward at a pace that recognised the urgency of the needs of our people."

He said this underlined the need for ending apartheid "so that the need for sanctions falls away."

Mandela was introduced by ILO director-general Michel Hansenne as a "symbol of peace" and received a thunderous ovation from more than 2,000 delegates crowding the assembly hall of the United Nations headquarters in Geneva. The ILO expelled South Africa 25 years ago because of its policies of racial segregation.

In his half-hour address Mandela, deputy president of the

African National Congress, said he was encouraged by Thursday's lifting of the state of emergency in most of South Africa as well as by the release of more political prisoners.

"These steps constitute part of the process of implementing what was agreed (with President F.W. de Klerk) a month ago," he said. "Of course, more will have to be done to ensure that the agreement is implemented in full."

Mandela, who recently underwent surgery, cancelled a meeting with the Red Cross today apparently because he was not feeling well but emerged later to say he was in top form.

"I feel on top of the world... I am well," Mandela, 71, told Reuters as he left his luxury hotel for a lunch at the ILO.

Mandela cancelled a meeting with International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) president Cornelio Sommaruga after addressing the ILO annual meeting and a news conference in the morning.

US President George Bush will meet Mandela on June 25 to discuss efforts to end apartheid in South Africa, the White House said on Wednesday.

Latest Black South African singer Miriam Makeba said today she would leave for Johannesburg tomorrow for her first visit home in 31 years.

Russia suspends 'Soviet laws'

MOSCOW, June 8, (Reuters): The Russian Federation, the largest Soviet republic, declared today that its constitution now took precedence over Soviet laws. Tass news agency said.

The Russian Federation Parliament, led by rebel President Boris Yeltsin, approved by 544 votes to 271 an article which declared that Soviet law which conflicts with sovereign Russian rights "are suspended by the republic on its territory." Tass added.

It said a full declaration on sovereignty for the Russian Federation, which includes 160 million of the country's total population of 280 million, would be ready for endorsement by the middle of next week.

Yeltsin, an outspoken critic of Kremlin chief Mikhail Gorbachev, declared after his election as Russian president two weeks ago that he would push the law through.

He also reserved the right of the Russian Federation to secede from the Soviet Union. But he has said he is not proposing this step.

The Baltic republics of Lithuania, Latvia and Estonia took a similar move as a first step to the later declarations of independence — acts that have brought them into sharp conflict with Moscow.

The article, one point from a complex declaration on sovereignty now being debated by Parliament, means that the Russian Federation could now overrule

any law it believed conflicted with its interests.

The Kremlin seemed certain to reject the move.

But it was not clear how this would affect the republic's relations with the Soviet bureaucracy in Moscow.

Yeltsin has, for instance, already declared his opposition to Gorbachev's plans for steep food price rises as a first step to market reforms.

Yeltsin told the Russian Parliament last week the sovereignty law would give the republic exclusive right of possession of all its natural wealth.

This would in theory give it control over the huge oil, gas and coal reserves which are the basis of the Soviet Union's wealth

in the absence of a manufacturing industry that can compete on world markets.

But these resources, as well as railways and other infrastructure, are now firmly under control of the central Soviet authorities and, ultimately, of Gorbachev.

Russian orthodox monks, priests and bishops elected metropolitan Aleksey of Leningrad and Novgorod as their new patriarch yesterday, rejecting a conservative who had been serving as temporary head of the church.

The 300-member council chose Aleksey, whose real name is Alexei Ridiger, rejecting interim head metropolitan Filaret of Kiev and Vladimir of Rostov and Novocherkassk.

Britain bid to ease Moscow concerns

Germany in Nato no threat: Thatcher assures Gorb

MOSCOW, June 8, (Reuters): British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher discussed the future of Europe with Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev today, assuring him that a united Germany's membership of Nato would not be a threat.

The two leaders met in the Kremlin for two-and-a-half hours on the first full day of Thatcher's four-day visit which will also take her to the Ukrainian capital Kiev and the southern Republic of Armenia.

British officials said 80 per cent of the morning's talks, which would continue over lunch and dinner, revolved around the future of Europe.

"Within that, of course, was the issue of German unification and

Nato," a senior British official said.

He added that Thatcher "rehearsed the substantial points," she had made in a speech to Nato foreign ministers in Scotland on her way to Moscow yesterday, notably that post-unification German membership of the 16-nation Western alliance was fundamental Nato policy.

The official said Thatcher sought to ease Gorbachev's concerns on the subject by stressing that no Nato forces would be stationed in what is now East Germany and said Soviet forces would remain there for a transitional period.



Gorbachev greets visiting Thatcher for talks at the Kremlin. (Reuters wirephoto)

Denktash designates premier

NICOSIA, June 8, (AP): Rauf Denktaş, President of the breakaway Turkish republic of northern Cyprus today asked Dervis Eroglu, chairman of the National Unity Party, to form a new government.

The party, which supports Denktaş, captured 34 seats in the 50-seat legislature, with 55 per cent of the votes in general elections last month.

Eroglu, a 52-year-old physician turned politician, told reporters that he would announce his new cabinet by the end of the next week.

Eroglu has been prime minister since the Turkish Cypriots declared an independent republic in the northern sector of war-divided Cyprus in 1983.

The National Struggle Party, an opposition coalition made up of one conservative and two leftist parties, won 16 seats with 44 per cent of the votes.

A group of 14 opposition deputies has been boycotting the sessions of the newly elected Parliament to protest alleged election irregularities.

The opposition claims that mainland Turkey improperly influenced the election in favour of Denktaş and the National Unity Party.

Nelson Ledaky, special US co-ordinator on Cyprus, said today Washington was making a new commitment to settle the problem of the war-divided island.

His statement after separate meetings with Greek and Turkish Cypriot leaders boosted expectations of imminent progress toward a solution.

'A remarkable man'

MILWAUKEE, June 8, (Reuters): President George Bush, praising Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev as a "remarkable man," said yesterday the superpower summit has produced a new era in US-Soviet relations.

Bush, in the midst of a tour of four US states to campaign for Republican political candidates, repeatedly spoke in glowing terms of the four-day summit with Gorbachev.

"We're entering a new era in US-Soviet relations," Bush said in remarks prepared for delivery at a fund-raising event for Wisconsin Governor Tommy Thompson.

"I'm grateful to Mr Gorbachev for the forthright spirit in which he addressed every issue on the table, and I take it as proof that we have indeed entered a new era in our relations with the USSR," Bush said.

Bush and Gorbachev reached agreement on several issues during the summit, including a reduction in chemical weapons arsenals and a new trade pact, but remained far apart on such subjects as the unification of Germany.

FBI's big catch

Leaked Nato secrets

TAMPA, Florida, June 8, (AP): A former army sergeant responsible for safeguarding sensitive documents was arrested on charges he conspired to sell information on the nuclear defence of Europe to Hungary and Czechoslovakia, the FBI said.

"This represents a hemorrhage of extremely sensitive information which caused grave danger to the United States and its Nato allies," FBI agent Allen McCreight said. "We think it has major implications."

Roderick James Ramsay, 28, was arrested without incident last night and was being held at an undisclosed location. He was scheduled to appear today before the federal magistrate.

Ramsay worked in West Germany from 1983 to 1985 under Clyde Lee Conrad, 43, a retired US army sergeant convicted of treason by a West German court and given a life sentence earlier this week, the FBI said. It said Ramsay's arrest stemmed from the Conrad investigation.

Ramsay was charged with conspiracy to gather or deliver defence information to aid a foreign government, the FBI said.

3 years in SA jail without trial

Black scribe tells his story

PORT ELIZABETH, South Africa, June 8, (AP): "When are you bringing him back?" my frightened sister asked a security policeman on June 16, 1986 — the day the police detained me under national emergency regulations decreed four days earlier.

"Don't worry, we'll bring him back soon," he said. "Soon" turned out to be nearly three years.

When the police came, no one tried to keep them out. The emergency empowered them to kick in the door anyway.

After hearing of the detention of other journalists I thought of going into hiding. But after moving from house to house, looking for asylum, I eventually came home. "How does a journalist go into hiding?" I asked myself.

The next night, the security police left with me. I had a jacket, a pair of jeans and a woolen hat.

Algoa Park police station's offices were as busy that night as a black hospital's casualty ward. We sat on the floor of the cold waiting rooms until we were fingerprinted and photographed.

"Ha Brian, you write a lot in the papers," said one of the cops to me, making me feel like a little boy in a cage.

One of the horrible experiences you go through in detention is that of being divorced from your family, your colleagues and the outside environment. Inside the police station I was kept with about nine other people in a filthy, tiny cell with blankets full of

lice. We slept on the floor. Each day, we got cold porridge in the morning, two thin slices of bread and black coffee, served in a big tin for us to share.

No one knew where we were. We were denied newspapers, visits, pens and even clothes to change. I had to use my T-shirt as a washrag on occasion. My jeans and lumber jacket made perfect pajamas.

A major breakthrough came sometime in July, when we developed various sorts of ailments — colds, ulcers, backaches. Some of us were admitted to Livingston Hospital and were able to smuggle letters to our parents and bribe guards with food and money to get visitors.

During that period, a detainee would be called for hours of interrogation. One young detainee, about 16 years old, came back sobbing.

"They've beaten me up," he said. He also told of being subjected to electric shocks.

It seems the police were trying to prove that I was a revolutionary journalist who, during the 1985 consumer boycott, took pictures of people who broke the boycott of white businesses. According to police allegations, I took the pictures to "the people's militia."

I went to the Grahamstown Supreme Court to try to prove the police wrong. The case was dismissed but I still have to pay the costs.

Liberian troops recapture key territory - Firestone plantation - gaining control of airport

MONROVIA, June 8, (AP): The Liberian government said today that its troops had recaptured key territory — the headquarters of the huge rubber plantation from which the international airport can be controlled.

Witnesses said fighting raged today at the US-managed plantation.

President Samuel Doe's government in a radio statement said its 1st infantry battalion had crushed rebels holding the headquarters' complex at the Firestone rubber plantation 35 miles (56 kilometres) southeast of Monrovia. The troops also were in control of Robertsfield International Airport, which

is on the plantation, the government said.

Rebel sources said their forces had withdrawn from the complex after government troops backed by heavy artillery approached.

When the plantation was in their hands, insurgents controlled every major industrial concern in the West African country of 2.5 million people, except possibly the Bong iron ore mine. The mine has been cut off for days from Monrovia and was believed behind rebel lines.

The rebel presence at the rubber plantation headquarters had effectively closed the airport.

The 120,000-acre plantation the world's largest is

the country's biggest employer with 8,500 Liberian workers. It produces about 100 million pounds (45 million kilograms) of rubber a year.

Also today religious leaders called for a ceasefire in the five-month-old war before "it degenerates into a tribal conflict."

The appeal from the Liberian Council of Churches and National Muslim Council of Liberia was broadcast this morning.

The church group called on Doe's army and rebels led by former bureaucrat Charles Taylor to agree to an immediate ceasefire supervised by an international peacekeeping force.

Both sides also were asked to guarantee the safety of everyone under their control.

The council also called for a national conference to discuss the conflict and restoration of democracy.

Doe called on the Bush administration yesterday to help him fend off advancing rebels he charged were backed by Libya, and the United States called on all US citizens to immediately leave the war-torn country.

Amnesty International yesterday called on government and rebel troops in war-torn Liberia to stop killing civilians and prisoners in their battle for power. (Reuters)

Czechs vote in first free election

PRAGUE, June 8, (AP): Voters across the country began voting today for new national and republic parliaments in free elections that leaders hope will remove the final vestiges of Czechoslovakia's communist past.

Polling stations opened across the country at 2 pm (1200 GMT) in Czechoslovakia's first free elections in 44 years. Miners in the former communist bastion of Ostrava began voting two hours earlier in some city districts because of the shifts worked by coal miners.

Among the first to vote in Prague were President Vaclav Havel's neighbours, Zdenek Zadnik, and his wife Milada, who expressed great happiness at being able to cast a free vote for the first time in their lives.

"Yes, I voted in 1946... if you can call it that," said Mrs Zadnik referring to the fact that voters' choice was limited then to parties in the national front, the precursor to what turned into a communist organisation that dominated political life for four decades.

The Zadniks were among the crowd of about 200 citizens and journalists waiting for the popular president to cast his ballot at central Prague polling station.

"I liked him as a dissident and I like him even more as president," Zadnik said.

The residents of Ostrava, known for four decades as a bastion of orthodox communism because of its heavily industrial workforce and Stalinist local leaders, were the first Czechoslovaks to have a free choice at the ballot box.

More than 11 million people aged 18 and over were entitled to vote. Balloting continues tomorrow, with polls closing at 2 pm (1200 GMT).

Authorities took the business of a free election seriously imposing a ban on the sales of all alcohol except beer for the two days of voting and sending police to guard public places ranging from polling stations to post office.

The voters will choose 300 deputies to a new federal parliament charged with choosing a new president and then getting to work on revising Czechoslovakia's constitution to remove the last vestiges of 41 years of one-party communist rule.

The elections will also decide the composition of Czech and Slovak republican parliaments, which have responsibility for key areas of public life such as education and health care.

The fiercest row erupted yesterday between Havel's Civic Forum Movement — which with its Slovak ally public against violence is favoured to emerge strongest from the voting — and the Christian Democrat Alliance of three parties.

■ **Bulgaria:** Hundreds of thousands chanting singing people jammed the capital's downtown yesterday in rallies for the ruling party and the main opposition three days before the first multi-party elections in decades.

Nearly half a million people attended a demonstration for the opposition United Democratic Forces and at least 300,000 people turned out for a similar demonstration staged by the ruling Socialist Party, formerly the communist party.



Havel addresses a press conference upon his arrival in Prague. (Reuters wirephoto)

INTERNATIONAL

World News Roundup

America

Sentenced to study holocaust:

Author James Michener warned three young men that history "will corrode your soul and imperil your adult lives" and offered to help them fulfill an unusual sentence for anti-Semitic vandalism.

Michener wrote to the men after learning that a judge had ordered them to learn about the holocaust — the systematic destruction of 6 million Jews by the Nazis before and during World War II.

Part of their assignment: reading a chapter from Michener's book, "Poland."

Trump casinos not for sale:

Donald Trump's top gaming executive on Thursday declared that the real estate mogul's three Atlantic City casinos are not for sale as he tried to ease rising fears of a possible cash crunch.

Trump, 43, by far the biggest owner in this seaside gambling resort, has faced a flurry of negative publicity recently over the heavy burden of debt he carries. A banker said Trump is being pressured by his bank lenders to restructure his more than \$2 billion in debt.

Ed Tracy, chief executive of Trump Hotel Management Corp., said the casinos, bolstered by the new Taj Mahal, achieved record revenues last month. (Reuters)

Embryo-divorce dispute:

Three state appeals Wednesday sought to cut through the philosophical arguments surrounding the fate of seven frozen human embryos to reach a practical resolution.

"We have to make a decision about what to do with these embryos," said presiding judge Clifford E. Tamm, head of appeals in Knoxville, Tennessee, head arguments on a divorce decision that gave the embryos to the wife. (AP)

Foretich talks out:

A father accused of sexual abuse in a highly publicized child custody battle said Thursday he should have "backed away" from the bitter fight years ago.

"I would frankly like nothing more than to de-escalate the fight," Eric Foretich said in an interview on radio station WIR.

Foretich, speaking from his office in Falls Church, Virginia, said he opposed an attempt by his former wife Elizabeth Morgan to gain custody of their daughter, but has filed no formal custody request for the girl himself. (AP)

Trans-Atlantic custody battle:

Two children whose divorced parents have been engaged in a six-month trans-Atlantic custody battle must return to Britain so a court there can decide their fate, a Broward county judge ruled Thursday.

Circuit judge Stephen Boober ordered that Alain Harounoff, 10, and Davina Harounoff, 12, be returned to England June 14. The children had been living in Tamarac with their mother, Jacqueline Wisenfeld, and new stepfather, Stephen Wisenfeld. (UPI)

Jail time for Poindexter:

Prosecutors asked a court to send former national security adviser John Poindexter to prison for his role in the Iran-Contra scandal, comparing his actions to giving "a diet of lies" to the Congress.

Poindexter, 53, a former vice-admiral, was convicted of lying to Congress and blocking its investigation into the worst scandal of Ronald Reagan's presidency. (UPI)

Time limit to pick jury:

Jury selection lagged behind schedule in the drug and jewelry trial of Mayor Marion Barry, while Jesse Jackson said he urged the mayor to drop his plans for re-election to encourage a plea agreement.

Defence lawyers and prosecutors questioned 19 potential jurors from a panel of 250 people on Wednesday, the third day of jury selection. Judge Thomas Penfield Jackson set a five-minute time limit for the questioning of potential panelists, telling the attorneys, "we are way, way behind schedule." (UPI)

Family raises ransom:

A Peoria woman whose son is being held for \$60,000 ransom in South America said Thursday contributions were pouring in from around the nation and it appeared they may raise the total amount by the Friday deadline.

As of late Thursday, about \$40,000 had been collected and the amount was still climbing, said Marge Heinrich.

Her son, Scott Heimdal, 27, was kidnapped April 28 by the Peoples' Liberation Army, while he was travelling by motorised canoe on the River Bermejan near the Ecuadorian border with Colombia. (UPI)

Museums stage protests:

Museums across the United States on Thursday dimmed their gallery lights, showed paintings in black and in one case staged a bagpipe-led funeral march to protest against an assault on government funding for the arts.

At issue is a lengthy and unresolved fight in Congress over the future of the national endowment for the arts, the government agency that provides financial backing for a variety of artistic projects. (Reuters)

Senator Kennedy visits grave:

Sen. Edward Kennedy visited the grave of his late brother, Sen. Robert Kennedy, at Arlington National Cemetery on Wednesday on the 22nd anniversary of his assassination.

The Massachusetts Democrat stood alone, his arms folded and head bowed, at his older brother's grave. He laid a flower on the grave, said a prayer and then paid a visit to President John F. Kennedy's grave nearby. (AP)

Refuses to be intimidated:

Health and Human Services Secretary Louis Sullivan, speaking days before an animal rights march on the capital, said he refused to be intimidated by the violent tactics of "animal rights terrorists."

Sullivan predicted the activists "they will not succeed because they are on the wrong side of morality."

Sullivan said animal research has saved millions of lives and holds promise for new therapies to treat devastating illnesses like Alzheimer's disease. (AP)

Lava destroys store:

Searing lava from the Kilauea volcano breached a crusted barrier Wednesday and flowed into the Kalapana store and drive-in, incinerating the structure after its elderly owner bid a said farewell with cake and pastry.

The store and drive-in was the last of three main structures that made up the remote Kalapana village, located on the southeast coast of the island of Hawaii. (UPI)

Nasa flight plans cut:

The United States will be able to fly only eight of its nine planned shuttle flights this year because its oldest space shuttle, Columbia, is broken, space agency officials said on Thursday.

Four of the missions will be delayed by as much as four months each while Columbia's leak fuel system is repaired, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) said. (Reuters)



World's biggest bridge contest

University student Nikki James, 20, shuffles a deck of cards in her home on June 7 in preparation for the world's biggest bridge contest on June 8. Nikki will take part from Sydney's Centropoint Tower via satellite with 10,000 bridge players from 90 countries. She hopes that her efforts will be recorded in the Guinness Book of Records. (Reuters wirephoto)

Asia

Scientific global plan:

The Japan science and technology agency is preparing a scientific global initiative plan which will provide the framework for handling massive scientific projects requiring international co-operation, it was revealed Thursday.

Many future projects, such as the superconducting super collider now being developed in the United States, nuclear fusion, the human genome map survey, the space station, the Mars exploration project will require a different kind of co-operation, agency sources explained. (Kuna)

Palmer condemns nuke test:

Prime Minister Geoffrey Palmer on Friday once again condemned France for continuing nuclear test at Mururoa atoll.

A test early Friday, which the French Defence Ministry described as being less than 12 kilotons, was the second of six scheduled this year. The first was detonated last weekend.

Palmer said the French government seemed determined to continue testing no matter what its cost in terms of relations with the South Pacific. (AP)

Dead man given job back:

A man who died while going to a hearing to fight his dismissal last year was reinstated to his job.

The state industrial commission made its decision so the unidentified 62-year-old man's family can collect an \$8,000 lump-sum pension payout.

The commission ruled Thursday that Norman Ross Discounts fired the 10-year employee unfairly for failing to check a truckload of stock, some of which later turned out to be missing.

But Norman Ross was short-staffed at the time and the commission ruled that the worker could not reasonably have been expected to check the load. (AP)

Ikeda receives Turkish medal:

Daikoku Ikeda, leader of Japan's largest Buddhist organisation Soka Gakkai, received the "commemorative order of the centenary of Turkish-Japanese friendship" from the Turkish government for his contributions to world peace and promotion of international understanding.

The presentation was made by Semra Ozal, wife of Turkish President Turgut Ozal, in a ceremony at the Turkish Embassy in Tokyo Wednesday. (UPI)

11 Fishermen missing:

A Japanese fishing boat with a crew of 15 aboard sank after colliding with a Norwegian freighter in the Pacific south of Tokyo Thursday, leaving 11 fishermen missing, the maritime safety agency reported.

KAL flights

China allows

SEOUL, June 8. (Reuters) China will allow South Korea's national carrier to use its air space for regular flights as the Seoul government tries to improve ties with the communist giant, Transport Ministry officials said today.

China had prevented Korean Air Lines (KAL) from flying through its air space, forcing KAL flights from Seoul to the Middle East to detour through Thailand, an airline spokesman said.

"We recently got an approval from the Beijing authority for overflights for our regular flights between Seoul and Bahrain," he said. "A technical landing for refuelling in Bangkok will no longer be necessary for such flights."

The flights over China will begin tonight. The KAL spokesman said flying over China would cut travel time between Seoul and Bahrain by two hours and 50 minutes.

Ethiopia appeals for food aid:

A million people are without food in Amara and thousands could starve to death in the northern city, a senior Ethiopian relief official said on Thursday.

Francis Stephano, co-ordinator of a church-based group of relief agencies, urged foreign donors to put priority on flying food to the city, capital of Entrea province, under siege by rebels. (Reuters)

Ethiopian rebels kill 1,870:

Ethiopian rebels Thursday claimed they killed 1,870 government troops in two days of fighting early this week near a strategic town north of the capital, Addis Ababa.

The Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front, in a clandestine broadcast, said 1,990 soldiers also were wounded in the battles south of Dessie, the heavily defended capital of Wollo province. (AP)

Cuban captives released:

The US ambassador to Sudan, doubling as interpreter, accepted from Ethiopian rebels on Thursday a Cuban doctor and his wife seized in battle and held captive for six months.

Ambassador Richard Cheek said his "humanitarian" role as interpreter symbolised "the long-standing relationship between the people of the United States and the Cuban people." (AP)

Nairobi violence, Wanjigi sacked:

President Daniel Arap Moi sacked his longest serving cabinet minister Wednesday, Maima Wanjigi, only a week after he accused the city council of the Kenyan capital of needless brutality in evicting squatters.

Wanjigi, minister of agriculture and also a Nairobi member of Parliament, lost his job as part of a mini-rebuffle of Moi's cabinet which swapped two other ministers' jobs and brought a former powerful foreign minister back into the fold, the official Kenya News Agency said. (UPI)

Units defeat troops:

Angolan rebels have claimed they forced back a major government offensive on Angola's southern border with Namibia.

In a statement distributed in Lisbon on Wednesday evening, the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (Unita) said they killed 97 government soldiers and captured 37 Soviet-built tanks and armoured vehicles in fighting since the attack began April 24. (AP)

Babangida decrees:

Nigeria's military government published details Thursday of a new decree giving President Gen Ibrahim Babangida and other top officers blanket immunity from criminal prosecution or civil actions.

The decree blocks numerous suits already filed by human rights groups seeking the release of detained Christian leaders, university professors and journalists. Most of those detained were picked up after a bloody failed coup attempt April 22. (AP)

Europe

Cardboard sandwich is dead:

British Rail, whose food has long been a national joke, launched a new line of gourmet sandwiches yesterday.

"The BR cardboard sandwich is dead," said Gastronome Sir Clement Freud, who was asked by management to put railway cuisine on the right track.

But commuters at one London station said they found the prices £1.85 (£3) for salmon and £1.65 (£2.80) for corned beef — hard to swallow.

"You could get three tins of corned beef for the same price," said one passenger. (Reuters)

Urged for fate of Wallenberg:

Moscow has a duty to reveal the fate of Raoul Wallenberg, the Swedish diplomat who disappeared into a Soviet jail after saving thousands of Jews in World War Two, a group investigating his case said on Thursday.

"The evidence, from witnesses and documents, is incontrovertible that Wallenberg did not die in 1947, as the Soviets say he did," a Canadian law professor Irwin Cotler told a news conference in Copenhagen.

Cotler heads the International Wallenberg Commission, which has compiled a 1,200-page report on the case of the man who saved many Jews, and others, from the Nazis in wartime Hungary by issuing them with Swedish passports. (Reuters)

Arms reduction proposal:

The Soviet Union wants Asia-Pacific countries to initiate regional arms control mechanisms in anticipation of the proposed reduction of the American and Soviet military presence.

Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Rogachev said yesterday arms control efforts in Asia and the Pacific should be patterned after ongoing arms reduction talks involving Europe, the United States and the Soviet Union.

Speaking to reporters at the end of a two-day visit to Malaysia, he added that the sooner such mechanisms are set up the better it will be for the region's stability.

It would not make any difference to the Soviet Union who initiated the talks, he said. (AP)

King Olav training to recover:

Norway's King Olav, the world's oldest reigning monarch, began exercises on Thursday to recover from a stroke which paralysed the left side of his body.

"His majesty the king is now getting more active retraining to overcome the remaining paralysis," the National Hospital said in a statement. (Reuters)

Le Pen complains of 'Gulag':

Extreme right-wing French politician Jean-Marie Le Pen complained on Wednesday on being sent to a political 'Gulag'.

Le Pen told at a news conference in his Brittany home town, which refused to allow him to host a meeting of European right-wing parties, that he had been unfairly ostracised since the destruction of a Jewish cemetery a month ago. (Reuters)

Woman sentenced in absentia:

A French anti-terrorist court condemned in absentia a woman to life imprisonment for her role in the slaying of an Israeli diplomat and the attempted murder of a US consul.

Jacqueline Esber, 30, a member of the Lebanese armed revolutionary factions headed by Georges Ibrahim Abdallah, is believed by French authorities to be hiding in Libya.

Abdallah was imprisoned for life in 1987 for orchestrating the murders of Israeli diplomat Yacov Barimantov and Lt Col Charles Ray, a US military attaché, in Paris in 1982.

Esber is Abdallah's fiancée. The court found her guilty Thursday of complicity and murder in the Barimantov slaying and attempted murder against US consul-general to Strasbourg Robert Homme.

Witnesses identified her as being near Barimantov shortly before he was machine-gunned April 3, 1982 in the Paris suburb of Boulogne-Billancourt. (AP)

Checkpoint Charlie to dismantle:

Checkpoint Charlie, the most famous crossing through the now-crumbling Berlin Wall, is going to be dismantled, the US military said on Wednesday.

For decades, checkpoint Charlie has stood as a cold war symbol.

The checkpoint was the site of demonstrations against the then-hardline communist regime, and protests by those seeking the release of family members still in East Germany. (AP)

Students occupy embassy:

About 12 youths took over the site of demonstrations against the East German regime, officials said, and his staff from their offices, officials said.

The youths gave themselves up after about two hours without incident.

Embassy attaché Luis Fernandez said the youths were East Germans who declared solidarity with a Spanish leftist terror group, Grapo, which is seeking to have its jailed members housed in the same prison. (AP)

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Deported from Australia

Frederick Harvey the Marquis of Bristol one of Britain's richest aristocrats has been deported from Australia for refusing to disclose his fug from Australia for applying for a visa. He is pictured being led to an aircraft at Sydney airport June 8. He says he will fight the deportation ruling. (Reuters wirephoto)

4 Bogota cops, 1 soldier killed:

The government sent 200 police reinforcements Wednesday to the cocaine capital of Medellin in an effort to halt the slaughter of policemen by drug traffickers, the police said.

Drug traffickers have killed scores of policemen there in the last five months.

Four more policemen and a soldier were murdered in Medellin between Tuesday and Wednesday, a Medellin police spokeswoman told the Associated Press by telephone.

One of the policemen was shot dead Tuesday before his wife and young son, who survived the attack, the spokeswoman said.

The latest murder raised the number of policemen killed in Medellin to 108 so far this year.

On April 2, the Medellin Cartel offered to pay \$4,300 to anyone killing a policeman. (AP)

Election outcome in doubt:

Three weeks after voters in the Dominican Republic went to the polls, they still don't know who they elected.

A preliminary vote count gave President Joaquin Balaguer a razor thin 21,704-vote victory in his May 16 bid for a sixth non-consecutive term but his chief opponent, Juan Bosch, alleged "colossal fraud."

A cumbersome, off-delayed final vote count and verification process must be completed before the winner is declared and authorities on Wednesday declined to forecast when that might be. (Reuters)

Pressure on Pinochet to quit:

The mummified bodies of firing squad victims discovered in a mass grave this week could hasten the final exit of former leader General Augusto Pinochet from Chile's political stage, observers and diplomats say.

The chilling reminder of the bloody 1973 coup that put Pinochet in power is expected to strengthen demands for a thorough investigation into human rights violations during his 16 1/2 years of harsh rule which ended two months ago.

Pinochet, 74, has sought to hold on to power as commander-in-chief of the army after handing over the presidency to elected civilian Patricio Aylwin on March 11. (Reuters)

Sandinista Army:

Nicaragua's Sandinista-controlled army will be significantly reduced in troop numbers but will remain large enough to defend the country and maintain regional balance of power, a high-ranking army officer said Wednesday.

President Violeta Chamorro is scheduled to announce plans Sunday to reduce the size of the Nicaraguan Army.

"We want to reduce (the army) to a level that will maintain a balance with the rest of the military forces involved in Central America," an army officer who asked not to be identified told United Press International. (UPI)

48 killed in Peru:

A battle between two jungle tribes armed with arrows, spears, machetes and poison darts left at least 48 dead, the governor of Junin department said Thursday.

The battle, between at least 1,000 members of the Ashaminkas tribe and 200 members of the Campos tribe, took place Monday near the jungle town of Satipo, Gov. Andres Galarraga Flores said. Satipo is 50 miles (80 kilometers) northeast of the Andean city.

Witnesses, according to Galarraga, said as many as 200 people died in the battle, with most of the bodies thrown into the Perene river. Police investigating the battle found only three bodies but confirmed the deaths of 48 people. Galarraga said.



New park opens

A galaxy of film stars turned out in Orlando, Florida, for the opening of a new theme park that gives visitors a chance to bicycle through space with E.T., the Extra Terrestrial, or be hurled about by King Kong.

More than two dozen stars from many of the movies and television shows featured in attractions at Universal Studios' \$600 million park, including Bill Cosby, Jimmy Stewart and Michael J. Fox, attended the ribbon-cutting ceremony.

Thousands of tourists from all over the world braved central Florida's sweltering summer heat to catch glimpses of their favourite celebrities.

The 440-acre (178-hectare) park includes working movie sound stages and tourist attractions featuring scenes from a host of popular movies.

Universal's sprawling new complex represents a serious challenge to Disney world, which operates a similar movie theme park with MGM Studios just a few miles down the road.

One of the most popular attractions at the park promises to be the one featuring the gentle, lovable E.T., the creature who starred in the film of the same name. (Reuters wirephoto)

Campaign in US

Expensive

races begin

WASHINGTON, June 8. (UPI) General election campaigns for governor in California and senator in North Carolina began with all signs pointing to battles that would likely be very close, nasty and extraordinarily expensive.

And while Democrats emerged Wednesday from Tuesday's primaries speaking of unity and trying to heal self-inflicted intra-party wounds, they also acknowledged that large amounts of money would be needed as Republicans geared up for some stronger-than-expected challenges in the two races.

In Iowa, meanwhile, abortion loomed as a critical general election issue in the race between incumbent Republican Gov. Terry Branstad, who opposes abortion, and Democratic nominee Don Avenson, who is strongly backed by abortion rights forces.

Overall, nine states held primaries Tuesday. Incumbents faced little trouble in any place they were challenged.

In California, former San Francisco mayor Diane Feinstein captured the Democratic gubernatorial nomination and immediately set out Wednesday to showcase her differences with Republican Sen. Pete Wilson, who easily won the GOP gubernatorial nod.

Although some Democrats have complained that the moderate Feinstein is too close in outlook to Wilson, she argued Wednesday that the two were "from different political philosophies" and she tried to paint Wilson as an ally of big-money interests.

Senator Kennedy visits grave:

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Fox attends ceremony

Actor Michael J. Fox is playfully strangled June 7 by Tom Wilson who plays Biff in the Back to the Future films series in which Fox stars. The two attended the opening ceremonies for the new Universal Studios Florida complex. (Reuters wirephoto)

KAL flights

China allows

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Likud signs coalition pact

Accord with religious parties and a defector

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 8, (AP): Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir today announced formation of a right-wing coalition cabinet after signing an agreement with a string of far-right and religious factions and a defector from the rival Labour Party.

Guidelines of the new government, the first fully controlled by Shamir's right-wing Likud bloc since 1984, promised to "uproot" the 30-month Palestinian uprising and expand Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

The pledges could deepen Israel's tensions with the United States and Europe, both of which have expressed fear a new wave of Soviet immigrants would be settled in the

territories and have questioned the harshness of tactics against the uprising.

Shamir announced the government was formed after a ceremony for the signing of the coalition agreement.

"The major effort of the government will be made on the most important issue we are facing today, the absorption of the mass immigration," Shamir said referring to the thousands of Soviet Jews coming to Israel.

"Together with that we'll deal with all the other issues advancing the peace process, solving economic and social problems," he said.

Arabs astonished at the US advice

US policy criticised

TUNIS, June 8, (Reuters): Arab states have told the United States that aspects of its Middle East policy were incomprehensible and unsatisfactory and advised Washington to "turn over a new leaf" if it wanted to avoid Arab criticism.

In a note given to Robert Pelletreau, the US Ambassador in Tunis, the Arab League said its members were astonished at the tone of US advice to last month's Arab summit in Baghdad. The United States gave the League a message on May 17 asking the summit to go beyond previous Arab positions on Middle East peace and steer clear of criticising

Washington by name.

The Arab League's six-page answer, delivered on Monday and released in full yesterday, said "Arab officials (at the summit) were astonished at the style in which the US position was formulated and were not satisfied with the US point of view on many issues."

"The Arab states believe that the strategic alliance between Israel and the United States, the amount of military and economic aid and political support which Israel receives from the United States and the lack of adequate effort to make Israel respect international law have

enabled Israel to persist in its attitude," it said.

"It could come about that the United States is not mentioned by name (in Arab resolutions), if the United States abandons its policy of total bias towards Israel and opens a new page in relations with the states of the region," it added.

"The Arab states expect the United States to link its aid to Israel's response to peace initiatives. Such an attitude would help make US policy in the Middle East credible and open a new era in Arab-American relations."

Bush not decided on halting PLO talks

DES MOINES, Iowa, June 8, (Agencies): President Bush, condemning "all the violence in the Middle East," said today he has been discussing breaking off the US dialogue with the PLO but had made no decision.

At the same time, Bush declined substantial comment on the emergence of a new right-wing governing coalition in Israel and repeated the US call for "peace talks to begin."

The President, on a Midwest campaign swing, was asked about reports the administration is considering halting its 18-month dialogue with the PLO because of an attempted commando attack on Israel.

"There has been no decision on that, but that it has been a subject of discussion," Bush told reporters aboard Air Force One as he flew to Omaha, NEB, from Des Moines.

"I'm not prepared to make an announcement on policy at this point," Bush said.

Asked if he was disappointed that PLO leader Yasser Arafat had not spoken out against last week's incident, Bush said, "I'd like to see Mr Arafat speak out... our dialogue is predicated on a renunciation of terror. In my view this is sheer terror."

"I've expressed my outrage about the attack," Bush added. "Maybe I can take this opportunity to express my outrage about all of the violence in the Middle East."

US Secretary of State James Baker also said today Washington had not decided whether to break off dialogue with the PLO.

He told a news conference at the end of a NATO ministerial meeting in Turin, Italy, a Scottish town. "When we are satisfied we know all we need to know, we will act in a way which reflects our commitment to promoting peace but being resolute in condemning terrorism."

In Washington diplomatic sources said the United States had decided to suspend the talks with the PLO and would announce it next week.

The sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the administration would cite the Palestinian seaborne raid on Israel last week and the PLO's failure to condemn Arafat's role in the attack.

Baker, responding to rumours a cutoff was imminent, told reporters the talks were continuing while the administration sought to find out "all we need to know" about the circumstances.

He declined to say what information was still lacking.

Four US senators earlier this week introduced legislation urging the administration to end the dialogue because of the PLO's refusal to condemn the thwarted attack.

The PLO, meanwhile, issued a statement exhorting the United States for "protecting Israel and its crimes" and for "encouraging it to commit more."

The attack followed the slaying 10 days earlier of seven Palestinian labourers by an Israeli described by Jerusalem as deranged.

Leaders of Israel's dovish Labour Party are urging the United States not to break off its dialogue with PLO.

"I am not convinced Israel has a real interest in halting the ties between the PLO and the US," former Labour Communications Minister Gad Yacobi was quoted as saying in an interview with Thursday's Jerusalem Post.

Baker again condemned the assault, carried out by commandos armed with rocket and machine-guns.

A decision on the talks would be made, he said, "when we are satisfied we know all we need to know."

Ethiopian Jews influx

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 8, (AP): Ethiopia has promised that as many as 10,000 Jews remaining in the country would be allowed to immigrate to the Jewish state within a year, an Israeli official said yesterday.

The agreement would mean that thousands of families split apart by a secret Israeli rescue called "Operation Moses" could soon be reunited in Israel.

Foreign Ministry Director-General Reuven Merhav said a top Ethiopian official made the promise to allow Jews to exit freely during a trip to Washington earlier this month.

"We have good reason to believe that most of the remaining Ethiopian Jews are now being processed or are in a situation to begin the process," Merhav said on Israel radio.

"If things continue as they have, it is possible that in a short period of time, within a year, they will all come," he added.

Merhav said it was unclear how many Jews remained behind in Ethiopia since more than 16,000 were brought to Israel through 1985. "Operation Moses," resulted in many

Collaborator found dead

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, June 8, (Reuters): A Palestinian accused of collaborating with Israel was found dead in the main street of an occupied West Bank village today military sources said.

Esmat Al Salem, 25, named as a collaborator in leaflets by activists of the Palestinian uprising, was killed in the village of Zibad, near Tulkarm on the border with Israel.

At least 200 Palestinians accused of being collaborators or moral deviants have been killed by fellow Arabs since the start of the 30-month-old uprising.

In the Gaza Strip, the army posted the home of Mahmud Baker, an activist in the Fatah Nationalist Movement accused of involvement in killing collaborators. Twenty-one people live in the house.

An army spokesman said Baker was a member of the Eagles of the Revolution group which targeted suspected informers.

In the same neighbourhood, dozens of soldiers raided the home of Mahmoud Rayyes, searching for his son Attif, 18, who has been wanted by the Israeli authorities for eight months.

An Israeli military court has sentenced a sergeant to four months of army work details for killing a Palestinian during a raid in an occupied West Bank village last year, an army spokesman said yesterday.

He said Yusef Elshibui violated the army's open-fire instructions by shooting the 22-year-old Arab as he was fleeing.

families being separated causing psychological problems among young Ethiopians who left parents behind.

More than a million Soviet Jews have received Israeli immigration visas, the semi-official Jewish agency yesterday.

The agency, responsible for immigration to Israel, said 1,163,350 Jews held entry visas but were awaiting Soviet permission to leave.

An Associated Press survey estimates that more than 3,700 Soviet Jews are living on territory seized from Jordan in 1967 far short of the mass influx feared by the Arabs.

The survey encompassed annexed areas of Jerusalem which are excluded by the government, which has claimed the influx of Soviet Jews to occupied land is minuscule.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

Possible chemical sale to Libya: The United States has received intelligence reports that China may sell Libya chemicals that can be used to make poison gas, the New York Times reported on Thursday.

Citing Bush administration officials, the newspaper said Washington had asked the Chinese government not to go through with the deal after learning officials from Chinese companies and Libyan officials were holding negotiations about the sale.

The officials said such a sale would violate China's stated commitment not to encourage the spread of poison gas to the Middle East, the newspaper said. (Reuters)

Hurd refuses to condemn: British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd on Thursday rejected Iranian calls to condemn Salman Rushdie's "Satanic Verses," saying ties with Tehran could improve only if it lifted the death decree against the author.

"Of course as a minister I can't condemn a book written by a British subject," Hurd told British Broadcasting Corporation television.

"I have said, the prime minister has said, that we have a high respect for Islam and that is certainly genuine... but we can't get, obviously, into the business of condemning books." (Reuters)

EEC model for Mideast: Former Israeli foreign minister Abba Eban on Wednesday night cited the European Economic Community as a possible model for Israel and their Arab neighbours.

"Europe of the twelve has reconciled national independence with regional integration in a pattern that is directly relevant for study by Israelis, Jordanians and Palestinians," he said.

He was addressing a dinner at the United Nations, chaired by former US Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, to honour Eban's 75th birthday, which he actually celebrated last February. (Reuters)

EEC, Israel at odds: A government official on Thursday confirmed reports of growing friction between Israel and the European Economic Community which has accused the Jewish state of blocking peace efforts and treating Palestinians too harshly.

The daily Haaretz reported Thursday that relations hit a low this week when Foreign Minister Shimon Peres met with EEC ambassadors and Moshe Arens met with EEC ambassadors and engaged in a shouting match with Ireland's Eamon Ryan.



Close to peace

Tribal chiefs and UN officials have steered the Western Sahara closer to peace after two days of talks on a self-determination referendum for the disputed territory, participants said on Thursday.

"It was a major step forward, a great success," said Swiss diplomat Johannes Manz, UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar's special representative for the region. Manz chaired the meeting of tribal chiefs loyal to Morocco and those seeking independence.

"We are beginning to see the end of the wall," Mohammed Fadel, a chief loyal to the guerrillas fighting for independence, told reporters.

Above a delegation of Polisario tribal chiefs emerge from the meeting in Geneva, June 5. (Reuters wirephoto)

Ryan later denied there was a shouting match, but acknowledged there were disagreements. "Views were exchanged frankly. They were differing views," he said in a telephone interview from his Athens home Thursday. (AP)

11 Palestinians expulsion sought: Swedish police have asked the government to expel 11 Palestinians, including two who have been linked to the 1988 Lockerbie plane explosion, security sources said on Thursday. (Reuters)

Multiparty system faces decisive test in Algeria, Tunis rivals to boycott polls

ALGERIA, June 8, (AP): The readiness of voters in Algeria and Tunisia to accept multi-party democracy is being put to a decisive test in local elections Sunday and Tuesday.

In both countries, the governing party — which has held sole power since French colonial rule ended decades ago — is virtually certain to win control of a large majority of councils.

The main question in the two North African neighbours is the level of support among voters unaccustomed to being given a choice.

In Algeria where Tuesday's election will be the first under a multiparty system, fundamentalist

groups have aligned under the banner of the Islamic Salvation Front. Its candidates are running in almost all the 1,541 municipalities and provincial councils.

But in Tunisia, where the government has withheld official recognition of Islamic groups on the ground that God belongs to all Tunisians, the fundamentalists have declared an official boycott of Sunday's elections. Thus, the anti-government sentiment will be gauged by the number of abstentions.

The elections will be the second time Tunisian voters have had a free choice.

In legislative elections in 1988, the ruling con-

stitutional democratic rally won every seat in the national assembly. Opposition parties later accused the ruling party of having abused its control of state funds, transport and mass media.

This year said the Tunisian periodical Maghreb, "all the elements are present. There are numerous determined opposition parties, there is a dominating and self-assured party in power, a state sworn to impartiality, thousands of ballot boxes and the voters ready, for once, to go to the theatre. And yet the play will not be performed. It is a sad spectacle."

By contrast, a genuine election contest is expected in Algeria where almost all parties will compete.



Nasser kin faces trial

Khaled Abdel Nasser, the eldest son of late Egyptian leader Gamal Abdel Nasser, smiles to reporters while sitting in his cage at a Cairo court on June 7. Khaled, who came back to Egypt suddenly last night after living in self-imposed exile in Eastern Europe for more than two years, faces death the penalty for his alleged role in the murder of Israeli diplomats in Egypt. (Reuters wirephoto)

Nasser freed

Bail in terror trial

CAIRO, June 8, (AP): A judge yesterday released on bail former president Gamal Abdel Nasser's son, one of 20 men accused of terror attacks that killed and wounded American and Israeli diplomats.

Defence attorneys argued that Khaled Abdel Nasser merited bail because he was not accused of riding with the gunmen who carried out the four attacks. Nasser, who could be hanged if convicted, returned Wednesday night from abroad, where he had been on the run since six months before he was charged in February 1988.

In announcing his decision, judge Emad El-Din Ismail of the State Security Court set bail at 5,000 pounds (\$1,858). He banned Nasser from leaving Egypt until his trial ends.

Nasser at 40 the late president's eldest son, wore a dark grey suit and white shirt and sat calmly inside a barred defendant's cage during most of the court session.

After Ismail adjourned the session to Saturday, the graying and bespectacled Nasser said, "I trust the justice of the Egyptian judiciary." He refused to say more.

Nasser and 19 others are accused of four terror attacks against Israeli and American diplomats, one a year between 1984 and 1987. The attacks left two Israelis dead and six Israelis and two Americans wounded.

Prosecutors are demanding death for Khaled and 10 others. The other nine charged with complicity face prison terms of up to 25 years if convicted.

Militants gain influence

US distrusted by both Israel, Arabs

WASHINGTON, June 8, (Reuters): Hardliners and militants are gaining power and influence in Israel and the Arab world, diplomats and officials say, and the United States, which tried to get Israel and the Palestinians to talk peace, is now distrusted by both sides.

Relations with Israel have been soured by a series of bitter clashes over settlements in the occupied territories and Washington also faces a tough decision on whether to break off contact with the Palestine Liberation Organisation after a PLO faction raided Israeli beaches last week.

"One gets the feeling the region is heading back towards war," said Martin Indyk, director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, a Middle East think-tank.

"It's like riding a bicycle. If you're not moving forward with a peace process, you fall off the bicycle and there is a slide back to rejectionist attitudes."

US administration officials agree, saying that without a viable, active peace process, it was difficult to control a tendency towards greater violence and hard to make a case for pragmatism and against extremism.

Officials are disturbed by what they say is a return to aggressive rhetoric in the Arab world as personified by Iraq's Saddam Hussein, seen in Washington as an advocate of confrontation rather than accommodation with Israel.

Playing on Arab fears about a wave of Jewish emigration from the Soviet Union to Israel and buoyed by his country's formidable military power, Hussein has twice threatened in recent months to burn half of Israel with chemical weapons if the Jewish state attacks any Arab country.

He emerged from last month's Arab summit in Baghdad as the new pre-eminent force in the Arab world. Even traditionally moderate, pro-Western states such as Jordan, which is beset by

economic and political troubles, leaned towards him for support.

The next few days are likely to be vital in determining whether the trend to extremism in the region is confirmed.

In Israel, Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir has to form a new government. It could be a reformation of the previous national unity government which collapsed in March in disagreement over American peace proposals.

But there is a good chance it will be a coalition of right-wing and religious nationalists, the most radical Israel has known.

Diplomats and officials expect such a government quickly to lock horns with the United States. The past three months of a Shamir caretaker administration have already been marked by a series of bad-tempered exchanges over settlements and Israel's harsh methods of quelling unrest.

The United States considers last week's raid on Israel a violation of the pledge made by PLO chairman Yasser Arafat in December 1988 to renounce terrorism and recognise Israel. It has asked him to condemn the operation and discipline the man behind it, commando chief Mohammed Abbas.

But Arafat is resisting and the tide of opinion in the Arab world is running strongly against making gestures to Washington. If he refuses, the US will have little choice but to cut its links with the PLO.

Moderate Arab states, notably Egypt, are working hard to persuade the United States not to break off the dialogue and to talk Arafat into making the kind of conciliatory statement that Washington can live with.

"If the United States cuts the dialogue, it will be the end of the peace process and it would put Egypt in a very bad position," said one Arab diplomat.

Egypt to intervene at Beirut request

BEIRUT, June 8, (Agencies): Egyptian Prime Minister Arafat today was quoted as saying Egypt would intervene if Lebanon asked it to do so in a bid to settle the 15-year-old civil strife.

In remarks published today by the local daily Al Safir, Sidqi added that "Egypt does not exercise pressure on any side but will intervene if it was asked to do so to use logic and wisdom in settling the crisis."

He described as successful the recent talks held in Cairo between President Mubarak and Lebanese President Elias Hrawi and reiterated his country's firm support to Lebanese unity and sovereignty.

Diplomatic sources told Kuna that President Hrawi asked President Mubarak to exert pressure on Israel to force it pull out from Lebanon and cease interfering in Lebanon's internal affairs.

The sources hinted that Libya, which President Hrawi is currently visiting, might provide him with weapons and financial assistance.

President Hrawi is due later today in Tunis on the last leg of his tour which he started last Tuesday.

Rival Christian forces of rebel Gen. Michel Aoun and militia chieftain Samir Geagea skirmished with mortars and machine-guns in eastern Beirut today and US Ambassador John McCarthy urged the defiant officer to step down.

Police said one person was wounded by sniper fire in east Beirut's district of Ashrafieh before the exchange died down at 4:30 am (0130 GMT).

The intermittent clash violated a shaky ceasefire that was called May 17 to halt more than four months of intra-Christian clashes for dominance of a tiny enclave northeast of Beirut.

McCarthy said he informed President Hrawi in Cairo early this week of the American administration's "support for the legal Lebanese authority to enable it to carry out its responsibilities."

Rival Shiite Muslims whose three-year-old feud for supremacy has killed 970 people have held their first peace talks in 16 months, militia sources said today.

Iran and Syria arranged the meeting between the Shiite Muslim Amal militia and its rival Hezbollah group in Beirut, the sources said.

Shiite Muslim chieftain Nabih Berri today offered to exchange the bodies of two Israeli soldiers for the more than 300 Arabs held by an Israeli-backed militia in south Lebanon.

"We've told the International Committee of the Red Cross that we have the bodies of two Israeli soldiers and we're willing to exchange them for all detainees at Khiam prison," Berri told a news conference at his vacation home in Masleh resort.

An Israeli military official said today the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) had expanded its control in south Lebanon near the Jewish state's northern borders.

Zai'v Zakharin, who heads the Israeli liaison office, said the PLO now controlled a 25 km (17 mile) deep strip of land stretching from the coastal port of Sidon to the Christian town of Jezzine near Israel's self-declared security zone in Lebanon.

Euphrates dispute

BAGHDAD, June 8, (Reuters): Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi accused Turkey of not taking seriously the problem of sharing Euphrates waters and said the dispute could affect future co-operation between the two countries.

Chalabi, head of the Iraqi delegation in a joint committee with Turkey on the Euphrates, told the Iraqi weekly magazine Alef Ba'a published on Wednesday that little progress had been made in negotiations on the Euphrates question since 1980.

"It is clear that the Turkish side, unfortunately, has not been looking into the question seriously," the minister was quoted as saying.

Turkey halted the flow of the Euphrates to Syria and Iraq for one month last January to fill a huge lake behind its new Ataturk dam, drawing sharp protests from Baghdad and Damascus.

Iraq said about seven million people were affected by the water cut, which cut into agricultural and power production.

EVENTS

Hotel Beat

Abu Shaar returns

Fahad Abu Shaar, a familiar personality in hotel circles, moved back to the Sheraton Hotel. Abu Shaar, who has been in the hotel field for several years, has extensive experience in five star hotels in Europe and the Middle East. He comes back to the Sheraton as its resident manager. Picture below shows Abu Shaar being welcomed to the hotel.



Japanese touch at International

Mine Inazuki has recently joined the sales team of Kuwait International Hotel. After having obtained her degree in Business Administration from Aoyama Gakuin University, Tokyo, she worked for the liaison offices of several multinational companies. She has been in Kuwait for several years working closely with the business community. Before joining Kuwait International Hotel she worked for a private company in the Sales and Administration area. Right Mine Inazuki



Versailles challenge

The Meridien Hotel, Kuwait, launched a new programme to recognize the supporters of their Versailles Restaurant. Anyone making five or more bookings between now and the end of this year will receive a range of gifts including a room for the weekend at the Meridien, Kuwait, complete with meals. Anyone making advance bookings can qualify for these prizes. Right: The Versailles buffet.



This week on KTV2

SUNDAY
June 10
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Bears: cartoon serial
6.30 The Beachcombers: "Free Ascent". Pat and Graham discover a shipwreck and plan to salvage it.
7.00 The Politics of Food: "Brazil". Documentary.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Matlock: Ben's client, a journalist, pleads guilty against his advice.
9.30 Body Matters: "What Is Your Poison". Tonight's episode examines the effects of alcohol on the human body.
10.00 The Two of Us: "Basketball Gabby". New series.
10.30 Best Seller: "Always Afternoon". Romance between an Australian woman and a German prisoner of war.
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

MONDAY
June 11
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Thunder Cats: cartoons
6.30 Animals of Africa: "In the Fever Tree". Focus on Madagascar's forests.
7.00 Roving Report: weekly roundup of Arab and world news.
7.30 Charles-in-Charge: "Charging Charles". Charles' credit card is misplaced.... Comedy.
8.00 News in English
8.40 Around the World: a global view of the world.
9.00 The Equalizer: "Mystery of Mannon". Evette seeks McCall's help to save her father, Marcell.
Starring: Edward Woodward.
10.00 Family Matters: "Man's Best Friend". Carl brings a dog home.... Comedy.
10.30 Classic Colour Movies: "Twelfth Night".
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

TUESDAY
June 12
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 The Lone Ranger
6.30 The New Mickey Mouse Club: a variety show for young viewers from Disney.
7.00 Quran and Science: "How Did Creation Start?".
7.30 Kate and Allie: "Kate



Robert Clothier and Bruno Gerussi play Nick and Relic in Beachcombers, Sunday.

turns down Ted's marriage proposal. Comedy.
8.00 News in English
8.30 You and the Law: prepared by the Ministry of the Interior; presented by Ali Noor. Focus on local laws.
8.50 Bordertown: On the untamed Canadian border, amid the rowdiness of the 1880s, like the town where right and wrong are determined by the speed of the gun.
9.15 Horizon: Documentary
10.00 Murphy Brown: Murphy's mother pays an unexpected visit, upsetting her routine. Comedy.
10.30 The Saint: The Saint's former girlfriend comes to the private eye for help.
11.30 News in Brief
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

WEDNESDAY
June 13
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Mickey & Donald
6.30 Hotshot: mystery-adventure series featuring a miniature car racing team, an enterprising children's gang — Kristy, Micro, Steve and Michelle — a kidnapped professor and a counterfeiting ring. Beyond 2000: this documentary examines



Candice Bergen anchors in hit, Murphy Brown, Tuesday.

the latest in science and technology.
8.00 News in English
8.40 The Science Edition: focus on scientific advances and their applications.
9.00 Booker: "The Red...". A contract killer takes advantage of Booker to reach his victim. Starring: Richard Grieco.
10.00 Cine Club: presented by Farouq Abdul Aziz (The film has not been announced.)
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

THURSDAY
June 14
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Police Academy: car-



Angela Lansbury is Jessica Fletcher in Murder, She Wrote.

Counsellor".
10.00 Just for the Record: record-breaking feats are captured on camera for this show.
10.30 Thursday Night Movie: "Someone is Watching". The terror of a woman who is followed from town to town.
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

FRIDAY
June 15
6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Popeye and Son: cartoons
6.30 Family Feature Film: "Bon Voyage".
8.00 News in English
8.30 Breaking Away: a look at what's on in Kuwait.
8.45 Globe TV: "A Ticket to the World": global television magazine show — looking at the global village.
9.30 Weekend: tonight's show features an interview with Health Ministry Undersecretary Dr Nael Al Naqib on the Kuwait Cancer Control Centre; also interview with Russian bone surgeon. Presented by Adieb Shuaiber and Maha Motawi. Produced by KTV.

10.00 Tales from the Darkside: "The Impressionist". Story of an actor who can't make it big and decides to copy an alien from outer space to achieve fame.
10.30 Wiseguy: "Day Nine". Vinnie testifies before a Senate committee to prove his innocence.
11.30 News in Brief
11.40 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

9.00 Holy Quran
9.15 Nabia wa Saleh
9.35 Ifrah Ya Simsim: Sesame Street. Arabic version.
10.05 News Summary
10.30 Ahlam Al Zahira: Arabic serial. Part One. Starring: Majdi Wahba, Karima Mukhtar, Anwar Ismael, Madiha Hamdi, Ibrahim Shami.
11.15 Good Morning
12.00 Al Raseef Al Barid: Arabic serial. Ep.1. Starring: Shafiqah Al Tall, Fuad Shumaili, Reem Saada.
1.00 News Summary
1.05 World News via Satellite
1.20 Songs
1.30 Sanvar: part one; cartoon serial
2.00 News in Arabic
2.15 Ailah Bu Jassoum: Kuwaiti serial, featuring Hassan Al Qattan, Abdul Wahab Dosari, Moosa Al Hazem.
3.00 Hadith Al Imaan: religious programme, part one presented by Sheikh Mutwalli Al Sharawi. Focus on Hajj.
3.45 Azhar Min Al Bait Al Qadeem: Arabic

serial, starring Amina Rizk, Abdul Aziz Mukhiyoun, May, Sabri Abdulmunim.
5.30 Sally: cartoon serial
6.00 Young Artists
6.30 Noor Al Islam: the light of Islam. Religious programme presented by Mohammad Al Sheikh.
7.30 Songs
8.00 Weekly Seminar
9.00 News in Arabic
9.45 Al Rajul Wal Qataar: Episode 6
10.35 Songs
11.00 Sa'aleek Lakin Shuara: Ep. 6
12.00 News Summary
12.05 World News via Satellite
12.25 Holy Quran/Closedown

Sports TV 6/45

5.00 Opening
5.10 Sports Analysis
6.00 World Cup: USSR v Romania (live)
10.00 World Cup: UAE v Colombia (live)
12.10 World Cup: Italy v Austria (recorded)

KTV2

6.00 Holy Quran
6.10 Bravo Star: cartoon serial

6.30 Take Hart: programme for children
7.00 Survival: "Subtle As A Serpent". A serpentine tale. This episode examines some of the 2,000 kinds of snakes, including the 15 venomous serpents.
7.30 Out Of This World: "Evie Geist". Evie has a touch of flu...
8.00 News in English
8.40 Murder She Wrote: "Seal of the Confessional". Jessica sympathises with a young man accused of killing a businessman. Starring: Angela Lansbury.
9.30 The Road to War: "Japan". The Japanese Imperial Army swept into Manchuria in 1931 throwing the Far East into chaos. European interests were threatened. Tonight's documentary examines Japan's role in the war.
10.30 Saturday Movie: "Still Watching". The story of a successful television journalist who harbours a terrible secret.
12.00 News in Brief
12.10 Magazine D'Actualite/Closedown

Please note that Kuwait television programmes and timings are liable to change without notice.

WHAT'S ON

Dinner

Festival on Ice

June 18-24: Ice Capades present Festival on Ice at the Ice Skating Rink. Two shows daily. Afternoon show features Barbie Doll. The evening show features figure skating champions and exhibition show. Twenty world class skaters promise family entertainment. For reservations Tel. 2530000/2533000

Outstanding

June 9: is the last date for submitting entries for the Most Outstanding Filipinos in Kuwait. For details contact Taha Guinomia or Loi Cortel. Tel: 5329315/17.

Ecole Francaltee

June 16: 7 pm. The Ecole Francaltee, Surrah, will hold an End of Academic Year Party and prize distribution at the Jamil School.

Hobnob

At the Meridien

MANGO Festival: until June 14. At Fingana and Al Waha. La Brasserie Restaurant. Thai Corner: Saturday night. Cowboy Night: Every Sunday, with live country music. Chinese Corner: Monday night feature. Greek Taverna: Mediterranean magic with bousouki music. Indonesian corner: on Wednesdays: food prepared in front of you. Jazz Night: New Orleans atmosphere on Thursday night. Friday: Oriental luncheon buffet: family day. Versailles: Business lunch; and a la carte dinner.

At the SAS

Bistretto: Sunday/Wednesday — pasta night; Italian music. Peacock Room: Chinese cuisine; lunch and dinner. Al Boom: Kuwaiti experience; charcoal grilled food, plus mezzeh buffet. Clock: snack bar — burgers, french fries, etc.

At Ramada Al Salam

Al Bender Coffee Shop: Arabic and Continental buffets, lunch and dinner; also a la carte; open 6 am to midnight. Al Mawardi Open-Air Cafe: open from 6 pm to midnight. Al Gandoul Grill Garden: open after 6 pm; grilled food. Friday brunch: 12 noon to 3 pm, ship discovery tour, entertainment for children and cartoon-strip characters.

At the Messaliah Beach

Al Mubarakiah: open around the clock; seafood promotion on Wednesdays, 7 pm; Fridays — Middle Eastern cuisine.

Al Jawharah: Thursday special — special menu; music by Rainbow Band.

At the Holiday Inn

Al Ahmadi Coffee Shop: breakfast, lunch and dinner buffets — Continental and Oriental cuisine. Al Andalus Supper Club: Arabic Nite, every Thursday; Arabic band entertains guests. Friday Family Lunch: Disney fantasy on Fridays.

At the Plaza

Al Dallah Coffee Shop: international cuisine; open buffet plus menu. Lolouwah Corner: snacks and refreshing summer drinks. Marco Polo: Italian ambience and cuisine, particularly pasta.

Music

Jukebox 6

June 12: 7-9 pm. Kuwait Players hold preliminary auditions for musicians and singers, all ages, at the Kuwait English School, K.G. Dept., Salwa. The show will be produced by Ken Winston and Glenis Muecke with musical director Oliver Lister and Liza Hoy. It will be presented at October end in Salamiya Cinema. Anyone interested in this production is invited to come along to the auditions. For details ring: 5740256/7; 5625316; 5615357; 5731782.

Beat Festival

July 12: Coming up next month is the Beat Festival featuring such bands as Neighbuzz, Hurricane, Symphony. The show will be performed at the Azak Restaurant, opposite G.P.O. More details later.

Murchana

June 15: Murchana, a musical evening featuring Bengali, Hindi and semi-classical songs at Meridien Hotel. For reservations call 5640389 after 5.30 pm; 4893424.

Theatre

Konkani play

June 15: 5 pm. IAC, Funaites. The K.C.W.A. will perform a Konkani play *The Moka Naka*. Gate passes now available. For details contact Charles Vas — Tel. 4312953.

PRAYERS

Fajr	3.13 am
Dhuhr Prayer	11.47
Asr	3.21 pm
Maghreb	6.47
Isha	8.18

Cinema

Al Ahdath
Hana Al Abah (Arabic)
Starring: Adel Imam, Huda Ramzi, Farouk Fishawi

Al Salamiya
Al Ragassah Wal Siyasi (Arabic)
Starring: Nabila Obaid, Salah Qabil

Al Hama
Khithab Al Shaitan (Arabic)
Starring: Karam Mutawa, Suhair Kamzi

Drive-In
Al Ragassah Wal Siyasi (Arabic)

Al Firdous
Kasam Vardi Ki (Hindi)
Starring: Jeetendra, Bhanu Priya

Fahad Open-Air
Parinda (Hindi)
Starring: Anil Kapoor, Nana Patekar

Al Fahad
Arilham (Malayalam)

Al Jabra
Mag Wheels

Granada
Cry Freedom

Salaikhat
Aib Ya Rustom (Arabic)

Al Jleeb
Jagratu (Malayalam)

Almadi Drive-In
Night Wars

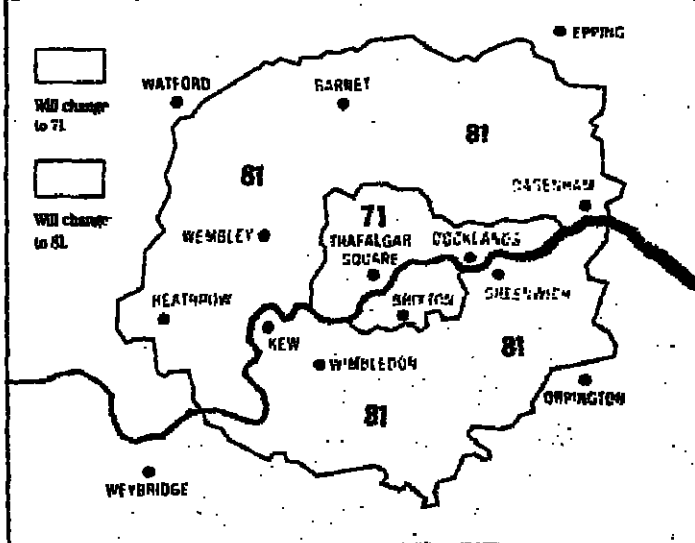
All entries for the What's On column can be sent by telex (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shurwalkh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

London direct dialling code changed: ministry

THE direct dialling codes to London changed from May 6, 1990. A spokesman of the ministry of communication said that although the public has been informed they continue to use the previous code (1). This has resulted in a heavy load on the international exchange due to incomplete calls.

The spokesman has asked subscribers to note the change in London codes. The new codes are: Inner London: (71) and Outer London: (81).

The spokesman said Kuwait subscribers normally deal with people in the Inner London areas and have advised them to use the code (71). If the number requested is not within the inner-London area, a recording will inform the caller that the dialled code is wrong and the caller can try the code (81).



Map showing the Inner and Outer London areas.

Action Line

SIR, I presently work at an embassy. I would like to know if I am terminated, or if I resign, can my residence be shifted to the private sector. Please explain.

TT. THIS depends on the approval of the Minister of Social Affairs and Labour. Employees at diplomatic missions come under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. If you want to change your residence to the private sector, you must apply for permission and approval, addressing your letter to the minister of social affairs and labour or the undersecretary. At the time of applying, you must also submit copies of papers showing previous sponsorship and documents proving the new sponsor's request seeking transfer or residence. The officials reserve the right to accept or reject an application.

I CAME to Kuwait in March 1989 to work as a driver at an embassy on visa No. 17. Before my arrival, my sponsor left the country as he was recalled. For the last one year of service, I have been facing several problems. I have not been given the driver's job. I am also not paid the promised salary of KD80. I receive only KD40 per month. I have to work at the embassy and in the house. Is there any rule that a person should work in two houses for one salary? If I complain to the incharge of the embassy, they tell me to go back to my country. If they send me back will they pay the remaining one year salary?

YOUR case cannot be handled legally or through the private sector law. It is advisable to approach the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to settle the same.

I HAVE been employed by a company since July 1989 and was terminated in April 1990 without any reason.

1. Is my residence transferable?
2. Will my employer provide my plane ticket to my country?
3. Can I oblige my employer to give me more time to look for another job?
4. If I find a new employer who can give an NOC, can I go to Iraq and return to Kuwait? Will my former employer provide my plane ticket if I went back to my country?

1. NO. Your visa is not transferable, because you have joined the company in July 1989 (and you have not completed three years employment).

2. This depends on the contract: if your contract says you should get the ticket, you will get it. If the matter has not been covered in the contract, in case of a dispute, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour will decide whether you're eligible or not. In your case, you must check with the ministry.

3. No, you can't oblige your employer to give you more time to look for a job. The main factor about changing your job is to have completed three years with one employer, and as you have not completed the required duration, it would be illegal to work elsewhere. If you found work illegally, under another sponsor, you may be deported. And if you don't work for another employer but are searching for a job, it would create a problem for the sponsor, who won't be allowed to bring a replacement.

4. This depends on the procedures applied in your country; if it is required to authenticate documents in your country of origin, then you must go back.

I BOUGHT a car two months ago and paid for the vehicle. The car owner recently died of a heart attack, before transferring the car in my name. Now, I can't transfer the car to my name nor can I renew the registration.

I have been told that until the power of attorney is given to someone in the owner's family, it is not possible to transfer the car. This could take even a year. How can I overcome this problem in the quickest possible time?

WITHIN six months of the death of the owner, you can file a case against the heirs — or make a general case without naming heirs — to seek a transfer of residence. After that, a case can be filed against the heirs, and get a judgement sought on documentary or eye witness testimony. When you get a judgement, the car can be transferred in your name.

I HAVE worked in Kuwait for the past three years. My company's office is in Kuwait City. I would like to join another company in Kuwait City. My sponsor says that the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour will not change my papers because the offices of both sponsors are in Kuwait City. Is this true that we can't change if both sponsors' offices are in Kuwait City?

THIS is not true. More than 50 per cent of the companies are located in Kuwait City. This can't be a reason for preventing transfer of residence. There must be some other reason, and it would be advisable to check with your employer to find out the real cause.

I AM a Filipino working in Kuwait as a domestic helper. I want to complete one year employment and return to my own country. I will buy my own ticket. I want to cancel my visa so that I can come back if I find an employer who gives holiday at least once a month.

YOU did not mention the duration of your contract. If there is no contract, it is advisable to discuss the matter with your employer. Tell them you are planning to leave the country and don't want to come back. You can ask them to cancel your visa.

In the meantime, you can ask your employer to give you a rest day each month. Explain your difficulties and see if you can come to an agreement with them. If you have a contract, it is advisable to abide by its terms.

I WORK as a domestic on visa No. 20. I am expecting a baby in August. My husband is employed with a Kuwaiti company, and holds visa No. 18, but his salary is not sufficient to sponsor our child. I would like to know if my baby is born in Kuwait how long can I keep the child before returning to my country. I understand the baby will be recorded in my husband's passport. How do I exit with the baby and what documents will I require?

A MOTHER holding visa No. 20 is allowed to deliver the baby in Kuwait. Under residence rules neither parent — mother or father — can get a visa (iqama) for the child. If the child's name is endorsed in the father's passport by his embassy, the infant would be considered as staying without a visa in the country. Such a child's name cannot be included in the mother's passport. If such a baby is born here, both the child and mother have to leave the country.

If you have a problem drop in a line to Action Line, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, 13023 Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions to us on tel: 4847495.

Kuwait renews commitment to Palestinians

Joint Arab Defence council called for

VIENNA, June 8, (Kuna): Kuwait has renewed its commitment to continue its support for the Palestinian people in their just struggle to attain their national rights and to back up the Palestinian intifada against Israeli occupation.

Addressing an informal meeting of donor countries to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestinian Refugees (Unrwa), member of the Kuwaiti permanent delegation at the UN headquarters in Vienna, Ali Al Saeed pointed out that Kuwait's support to the Palestinian people and their uprising against the occupation authorities was not verbal obligation but an obligation supported by figures.

He indicated that the total financial assistance offered by Kuwait in support of the uprising on the official and popular levels had reached \$83 million during the last two years.

Saeed expressed Kuwait's concern over Israeli inhuman practices and persecution and oppression against the Palestinians under occupation.

Unrwa's Director Giacomelli said that the agency was facing serious financial

deficit amounting to \$30 million, indicating that the agency's obligations were badly affected by this failure.

He called on the international community to increase donations to enable the agency to carry out its task for supporting the Palestinian refugees in the occupied Arab land, Lebanon and Syria.

Projects

Unrwa is supervising relief projects for more than 2.5 million Palestinians in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, Lebanon, Jordan and Syria, especially in the fields of education and health.

Meanwhile, a PLO executive committee member yesterday said that the message sent recently to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat by the US administration stressed that convening an emergency international peace summit would not provide results and would only demolish peace progress achieved till now.

Suliman Al Najab told a local daily that all US messages whether direct or indirect hold the same contents and are always against the Arabs and the Palestinian people, in particular.

The US veto concerning sending United Nations Security Council fact-finding mission to the occupied lands to investigate Israeli aggressive practice is considered a clear message of defiance to the recent decisions adopted by the summit in Baghdad, the Palestinian official said.

Najab called on the Arabs to take a unified stance against "this challenge."

Responsibility

He added that the PLO would issue a statement stressing Washington's responsibility for peace in the Middle East. He said the US was "the only country that isolated itself from the international community that denounced Israel which had refused all concerned efforts to convene an international peace conference."

In a related development, member of Fatah Central Committee Khaled Al Hassan told another daily that the decision by Washington to stop dialogue with the PLO would be a blow to the peace process and a preparation for exploding the situation in the region.

He said however, that "it is better for us to stop the dialogue which began

December 1988 because it was not a real dialogue and we believe that the real dialogue between the US and the PLO has not begun yet."

He explained saying that real dialogue is not meetings between two ambassadors and exchange of letters as the present case is, but it should be at all levels and in all capitals and not only in Tunis.

He added that "it is better not to continue with this dialogue and to resume it, one day, on a new and solid basis."

He stressed that the Palestinian-US dialogue could not be stopped for ever because the crisis is a moving process.

Force

He added "I do not know what the plans of US officials are, but may be they do not move or do not want to move seriously unless a war or a military confrontation in the region takes place."

Answering a question on the opinion of the Palestinian leadership about the US demand to expel member of the PLO executive committee Mohammed Abbas (Abul Abbas) from the committee

because of the commando operation his front has carried out last week, Hassan said "we do not expel anyone in order to appease the US," adding that this "affects clearly the American arrogance of force."

Another Kuwaiti daily meanwhile has called for revival of the eastern front and the joint Arab Defence Council to confront dangers facing the Arab nation.

The daily said that "available information from various sources affirm that Israel is preparing for aggression against Iraq and th Palestinian intifada."

The paper called on the Arabs to learn from the Israeli attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor in 1980, affirming that this means that enemies will continue to destroy scientific and technological development in the Arab nation.

Israel attacked the Iraqi nuclear reactor because this was the first attempt to break the siege imposed on the Arabs from obtaining necessary technology, the daily noted.

The daily urged all Arabs to unify ranks and stand by Iraq to defend the Arab nation's right to development.

Kuwaitis go to polls tomorrow

(Continued from Page 1)

system with the help and technical know-how generally available in Kuwait.

Information Minister Sheikh Jaber Mubarak Al Hamad has expressed the opinion that the many candidates running for the June 10 elections reflect the Kuwaitis' awareness of the importance of the National Council.

Speaking in an interview with Lebanese daily Al Anwar published here yesterday, Sheikh Jaber said that the National Council will help pave the way for the future and that it will fill a legislative vacuum, "but it will not replace the National Assembly."

Sheikh Jaber stressed that the country's supreme interests must be given top priority, affirming that democracy is deep-rooted in Kuwait.

He said that the government needs to listen to all views, for and against, adding, "we have no opposition in Kuwait in the real sense of the word. We have those who have different views from the majority."

He asked the opposition to respect the majority's views "because this is the simplest basis of democracy."

The Kuwaiti minister noted that the political leadership was keen not to change the division of the electoral districts "so this change is not interpreted as an act to prevent some from winning the elections."

The candidates competing in general elections took advantage of the Friday's holiday to rally support of the electorate.

Dozens of advertisements in the local newspapers invited the public to open dinner banquets to be held in tents set up in streets and main squares.

Kuwait urged to reconsider withdrawal

CAIRO, June 8, (Kuna): The Arab Council for Economic Unity appealed to Kuwait to reconsider its withdrawal from the council early this year, adding it will send a message to Kuwait in this respect.

At the conclusion of its 53rd ordinary session here today, the council stressed that Arab countries are keen to see the continuation of Kuwait's efforts in the council's march.

It praised the stances of Kuwait in all congregations and at all levels, particularly its early constructive contributions in the council's activities.

Following its two-day meetings, the council appealed to member states to meet its financial commitments.



Kuna office visited

A delegation of students from Kuwait University visited the Kuwait News Agency (Kuna) office Thursday, and toured the various sections. The visit was organised by the science committee of the Palestine Students Union.

Saudis boosting military strength

\$4bn US arms sale

NICOSIA, June 8, (Agencies): Saudi Arabia, the biggest Middle East defence spender, appears determined to boost its military strength with Washington announcing a new four-billion dollar arms sale to the kingdom, analysts said yesterday.

The US Defence Department in a statement on Wednesday said the arms, including armoured vehicles, anti-tank missiles and modernisation of Awacs radar warning planes, were needed by the Saudi National Guard and Royal Air Force.

The offer follows an earlier six-billion-dollar proposal to sell battle tanks to the Saudis although the plan has not been finalised. Congress has 30 days to decide whether to veto the new deal.

The announcement coincided with a British magazine report quoting Israeli intelligence sources as saying Saudi Arabia had completed deployment of Chinese surface-to-surface missiles able to hit targets anywhere in the Middle East.

The Defence Department made it clear the equipment would not change the military balance in the volatile Middle East.

"This sale will contribute to the foreign policy and national

security of the US by helping to improve the security of a friendly country which has been and continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East," it said.

The Saudis have always said their arms purchases were purely defensive, "serving security and peace in Saudi Arabia and Muslims in general," according to Defence Minister Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz.

The kingdom has a \$20 billion (\$34 billion) arms deal with British manufacturers who are helping with industrial and commercial projects in Saudi Arabia to offset costs for such items as Tornado fighters and minehunting ships.

Saudi Arabia has profited from its foreign defence purchases to a large extent through the establishment of joint industrial and services companies with those who signed contracts with the Ministry of Defence, the kingdom's Industry Minister Abdulaziz Al Zamel has said.

The kingdom has announced a \$38.1 billion budget for 1990, allocating 36 per cent for defence.

Prince Sultan toured several European countries, including France, last year and concluded some military agreements in a

move seen as a diversification of arms purchases.

Saudi Arabia has been resorting to oil barter deals to meet a major part of the cost of armaments.

According to the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies (IISS), Saudi Arabia has 65,700 men in active service in the armed forces.

The figure includes 38,000 men in the army, 7,200 in the navy, 16,500 in the air force and 4,000 in the air defence force.

In addition, Saudi Arabia maintains a National Guard, a para-military force of 56,000 men made up of 10,000 active, 20,000 reserve and 6,000 tribal levies, according to IISS.

The National Guard, commanded by Crown Prince Abdullah who is also first deputy prime minister, has a frontier force of 8,500 men.

The deal involves \$3.4 billion in General Motors Corp products. Boeing Co would get \$600 million for aircraft work.

The deal would include 1,117 light armoured vehicles made by General Motors of Canada Ltd and 2,000 Tow anti-tank missiles made by Hughes Aircraft Division of GM.

That equipment, plus 27 155mm howitzers, would go to the Saudi National Guard.

Qatar, Saudis ban British beef

DOHA, June 8, (AP): The Qatari government banned the import of beef from Britain and Ireland yesterday becoming the second Gulf state to take such measures amid reports that some herds in the United Kingdom were suffering from mad-cow disease.

The Qatar News Agency said that the ban on meat was imposed a day after the government stopped the import of live cows from the United Kingdom.

It quoted an unnamed official of the Ministry

of Municipal Affairs and Agriculture as saying the ban was motivated "by concern about protecting the consumer after the spread of mad-cow disease in the British Isles."

Earlier in the week a similar ban was clamped in neighbouring Saudi Arabia on the import of beef from Britain and Ireland.

Mad-cow disease or bovine Spongiform encephalopathy, has already killed 13,000 cows in Britain over the past four years. But its effect, if any, on humans remains unknown.

KD12.7m AFESD loan to Iraq

KUWAIT, June 8, (Kuna): The Kuwait-based Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD) extended two separate loans to Iraq totalling KD12.7 million raising the fund's contributions to KD50.8 million (KD1 equals \$3 approximately), a press release said here today.

The release noted that board

chairman and director-general of the fund, Abdel Latif Al Hamad and Iraqi Ambassador to Kuwait Assim Yousif signed both agreements.

The release said the first loan agreement of KD4.2 million will be used to establish a slaughterhouse and factory for meat industry in the southern Iraqi city of Basra.

The loan, with an interest of

4.5 per cent, would be repaid in 22 years including a five-year grace period, the release noted.

It added that the second of KD8.5 million, will be used to finance and establish electricity power stations in Basra.

The second loan, of an interest of 4.5 per cent, would be also repaid in 22 years but with a grace period of six years, the release said.

Qatari crown prince returns

DAMASCUS, June 8, (Kuna): Qatari Crown Prince and Defence Minister Sheikh Hamad Bin Khalifa Al Thani left here yesterday concluding an official three-day visit.

Before his departure, Sheikh Hamad held talks with President Hafez Assad, Vice-President Abdulhalim Khaddam, Premier Mahmoud Al Zuabi and Defence Minister Mustafa Tallas on latest Arab developments and means of promoting bilateral relations.

The talks also focused on the need for a unified Arab stand toward threats against the Arab nation.

Latest Palestinian developments, current situation in Lebanon and a number of Islamic and international issues, figured high in Sheikh Hamad's talks with Syrian leaders.

NEW ENGLISH SCHOOL

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There is a vacancy for a school nurse from September in the primary department. Applicants must have at least British S.R.N. qualifications.

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Preference will be given to those having valid Kuwaiti driving licence.

Those interested, please call Tel. No. 4841322 (ext. 32 or 34) for appointments between 9 am - 12 noon.

Applications will be kept strictly confidential.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Cultural document

TUNIS, June 8, (Kuna): Kuwait handed the Arab League Educational, Cultural and Scientific Organisation (Alesco) a document, which included its endorsement of the Arab agreement for the facilitation of Arab cultural production, which was signed at 6th session of the conference of Arab ministers responsible for cultural affairs.

Kuwait's permanent representative to the organisation Taleb Al Baghli told Kuna here yesterday that he conveyed the document, signed by HH the Amir of Kuwait Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmed Al Sabah, to Alesco's Director-General Dr Mesare' Al Rawi.

Twenty countries have signed the said agreement and four have endorsed it, namely Kuwait, Tunisia, Jordan and Republic of Yemen.

Iranian overtures

ABU DHABI, June 8, (Kuna): A United Arab Emirates newspaper yesterday welcomed statements by Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani in which he expressed readiness to meet Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

"Such readiness is a good indication of optimism that a permanent and comprehensive peace will prevail in the Gulf and positively affect the whole region," Al Fajr said.

"Rafsanjani's offer deserves welcome on the Gulf, Arab and Islamic levels," it added.

It said the Iranian offer was in response to Iraqi peace initiatives and added: "It is necessary that the Iranian leader's overture is met with positive responses especially as forces hostile to Arabs and Muslims could throw their weight to sabotage the new peace developments."

"What we hope now is that preliminary talks on an experts level will precipitate an Iraq-Iran summit," it said.

Housing meeting

KUWAIT, June 8, (Kuna): His Highness the Crown Prince and Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Salem Al Sabah presided over a meeting of the Higher Planning Council on Wednesday.

The council's secretary-general Ibrahim Majid Al Shaheen told Kuna that the meeting discussed means of finding new financing channels in compliance with Sheikh Saad's directives to shorten the waiting period for attaining housing care.

He said the meeting was presented with a study focussing on establishing a housing market to which the state and financial institutions would contribute.

Shaheen said the meeting further discussed a report prepared by the Public Authority for Housing on designs for proposed projects and another one by Kuwait Municipality on unutilised land plots in Kuwait City.

Bahraini minister

KUWAIT, June 8, (Kuna): Bahrain's Development and Industry Minister and Acting State Minister for Cabinet Affairs Yusef Al Sherawi, currently visiting the country, met with Oil Minister Sheikh Ali Al Abbi Al Sabah.

During the meeting which was attended by board members of Kuwait Petroleum Corporation and head of the visiting minister's office, they exchanged cordial talks and viewpoints on Kuwait-Bahraini relations in the oil area and ways to strengthen them.



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Applications will be kept strictly confidential.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

FAIRNESS is what justice is all about. —Potter Stewart,
US Supreme Court justice (1915—)

Life in Beirut

Problems bridge religious divide

BEIRUT, Lebanon. (AP): Many Muslim and Christian families are reaching out to help each other survive, finding common ground in the suffering wrought by 15 years of civil war.

Mazen, a Sunni Muslim who lives in Muslim west Beirut, ran the gauntlet of snipers to drive into east Beirut to rescue Joseph and his family. Christian friends trapped by fighting between Christian factions.

"I knew I could get killed, but these are my friends," Mazen said. "I couldn't bear the idea of them under that murderous shelling, without food or water. I knew that if I didn't bring them... they'd never think of coming here."

Mazen, Joseph and several Christians interviewed after fleeing east Beirut asked not to be identified further. The Christians fear being harassed or killed by the warring factions if they return to Christian east Beirut.

The 15-year-old civil war has created religious and psychological barriers for many Lebanese, deepening the sectarian divisions that always have festered.

Now, some of those barriers are eroding because of the suffering inflicted on Christians by the months-long battle between the forces of rebel Gen. Michel Aoun and Samir Geagea, leader of the Lebanese Forces militia.

Fled
Police say more than 200,000 people have fled the 310-square-mile (800-square-kilometre) Christian enclave north and east of Beirut, where one million lived before the battle began on Jan. 30.

Tens of thousands, like Joseph and his family, have found sanctuary in Muslim areas. Some returned to villages they fled years ago.

It is impossible to predict whether the new Christian-Muslim co-existence will expand or help end the war, in which about 150,000 people have been killed.

More than 1,000 people have been killed and nearly 3,000 wounded, most of them civilians, in the fight for control of the Christian enclave. It is the worst fighting between Christians since the civil war began in April 1975.

Many Christians fled Lebanon through the port of Jounieh, north of Beirut, where ferries from Cyprus regularly run through shellfire to pick up Christians.

Street-fighting in the enclave eventually blocked roads to Jounieh, however, and thousands of people like Joseph found themselves with no choice but Muslim areas as a refuge.

They also found an unexpected welcome.
"The Muslims didn't kill us and eat our flesh as we'd been told by the Lebanese Forces," Joseph said, relaxing in Mazen's house with his wife, Feriel, their 6-year-old son Tony, and baby daughter Rana.

"We've made a lot of Muslim friends here. We have breakfast with one family at their home and we're invited to lunch at another. We meet these people every day now."

"Our Muslim friends shower the children with toys and clothes, although my financial situation is far better than theirs," said the 36-year-old real estate agent.

Seats
Lebanon has at least 17 Christian and Muslim sects that lived side-by-side for decades, usually in clearly defined areas, but often in mixed communities. It was a fragile unity, but it worked.

The region north of Beirut was the heartland of Maronite Catholics, the dominant sect. Maronites controlled the government, parliament, judiciary and army after Lebanon's independence from France in 1943, which fostered jealousy and animosity among Muslims.

After the war began, Christians were driven from Muslim areas in the Chouf mountains, west Beirut and the coastal plain south of the capital.

Many Christians have remained in west Beirut, especially leftist Greek Orthodox, but tens of thousands of refugees, mostly Maronites, packed into east Beirut and the shrinking Christian enclave.

Joseph and Mazen were introduced eight years ago by a mutual friend, an army officer now fighting for Aoun. They kept in touch and Mazen regularly slipped into east Beirut to visit.

Mazen said he decided to try rescuing Joseph's family because "I knew they would never think of seeking refuge in west Beirut."

He set out in his small car during an afternoon lull in shelling and entered east Beirut through the Muslim crossing, the only gateway between the two sectors.

"There was a lot of sniper fire," he said. "I had to take a long way around to Joseph's house... the trip normally takes 15 minutes. That day it took me two hours... Joseph had mixed feelings about coming with me to west Beirut, but I insisted."

"Finally, I asked him, 'Do you think you and your kids can take much more of this?' he said no, and we started packing."

Joseph said: "I realised that if we stayed in east Beirut, we'd be committing suicide. Our house had already been hit. It was either die... or take our chances in west Beirut."

Christians who sought refuge at the Sunni Muslim Ibbad El Rahman mosque in west Beirut also were overwhelmed by Muslim hospitality.

"They gave us mattresses, pillows and blankets," said a woman who gave her name as Hala. "They give us everything we ask for — meat, rice, bread and water."

Sanctuary
Hala fled to the Muslim sector a few weeks ago with her 11-year-old daughter, her sister, niece and mother.

Abu George, a farmer, is among about 70,000 Christians who have sought sanctuary in the Syrian-controlled Bekaa Valley of eastern Lebanon.

"We were living on the edge of death," he said. "After several days in the underground shelter, we ran out of water, flour and food."

He took his seven children for his old village of Deir Al Ahamar, where they were given a welcome he was not sure they would receive.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 68 — Roman Emperor Nero commits suicide.
- 1572 — Turkish fleet puts to sea against Don John of Austria to complete capture of Cyprus.
- 1752 — French forces at Trichinopoly in India surrender to British.
- 1800 — Austrians are defeated by French in battle of Montebello, Italy.
- 1827 — Turkey rejects allied note for truce with Greece.
- 1896 — Russo-Japanese agreement recognises Russia's position in Korea.
- 1915 — Severe riots break out in Moscow.
- 1916 — Grand sheriff of Makkah revolts against Turkey.
- 1940 — Norway's army surrenders to Nazis in World War II.
- 1961 — United Nations calls on Portugal to cease repressive measures in Angola.
- 1972 — US planes raid perimeters of Hanoi and Haiphong in most concentrated bombing of North Vietnam's military heartland in more than four years.
- 1975 — Philippines establishes diplomatic relations with China, breaking its ties with Nationalist Chinese government on Taiwan.
- 1984 — Heavy damage and casualties are reported as Iran and Iraq trade air attacks on residential areas across their 1,180-kilometre border.
- 1987 — Western leaders, at summit in Venice, renounce making deals with terrorists and endorse nuclear deterrence.
- 1989 — Two bombs blow up seconds apart on main seaside boulevard in Syrian-controlled west Beirut, killing three people and wounding four others.

GORBACHEV WANTS US TO VOTE ON HIS ECONOMIC PLAN



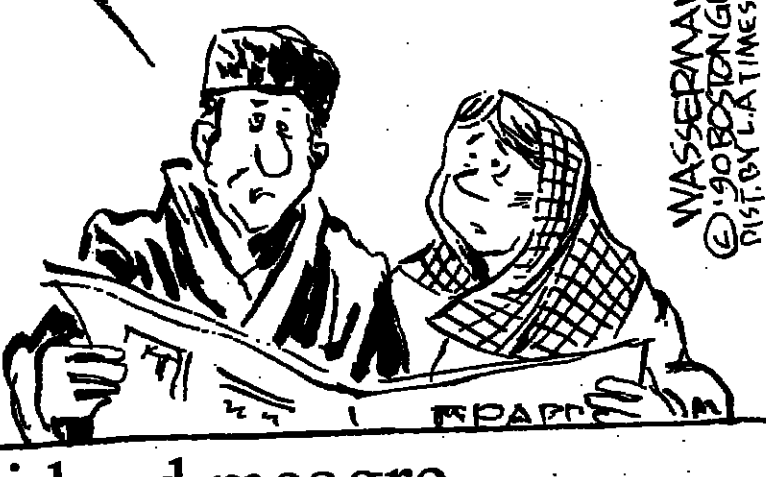
EITHER THE COMMUNIST PORK CHOP WE CAN'T FIND...



WHAT ARE OUR CHOICES?



...OR THE CAPITALIST PORK CHOP WE CAN'T AFFORD



Coping with democracy difficult for ex-dissidents

PRAGUE, (UPI): Two of Eastern Europe's most famous former dissidents — Czechoslovakia's Vaclav Havel and Poland's Lech Walesa — are having serious problems adjusting to the democracies they helped create.

In Poland, Walesa has caused an uproar by firing a chief aide and then demanding the resignation of top Solidarity theorist Adam Michnik as editor-in-chief of the Solidarity newspaper for daring to suggest his boss is a despot.

In Czechoslovakia, Havel is drawing fire for enjoying the trappings of presidential power a bit too much while waffling on the serious economic problems that plague the country.

Walesa's case may be a modern adaptation of the old adage that if power corrupts, absolute power corrupts absolutely.

Power
After the 1989 elections in Poland swept Solidarity into power, the Nobel peace prize laureate who led the non-violent revolution that eventually toppled communism throughout the Soviet bloc found himself out of the power loop.

Eying Havel's apparent success across the border and flanked by poor advisers — the best ones during Solidarity's underground period are all now in the government or Parliament — Walesa launched a disastrous bid for the state presidency.

The former electrician's popularity stems from his strength as a voice of the workers, and no one ever has thought of him as a diplomat.

His popularity plummeted as he made rash promises about how he would treat parliament in Belvedere Palace. At the same time, the popularity of Solidarity Prime Minister Tadeusz Mazowiecki rose.

Next, Walesa fired a few shots across the prime minister's bow, accusing his government of not acting quickly enough on economic reforms.

When the Solidarity caucus in Parliament wouldn't go along with that, Walesa last week-end fired one of his chief aides, Henryk Wujec, who has ties with the caucus.

Reprimand
That brought a reprimand from the Solidarity newspaper, *Gazeta Wyborcza*, which accused him of acting like an "absolute monarch."

Now he is demanding Michnik's resignation. "How does it look when I appoint Michnik and he turns (the paper) into a private cooperative," Walesa said in justifying his action.

"It's outrageous," said one intellectual who normally supports Walesa. "This time he was really gone too far."

During the martial law period and afterward, when Solidarity still was illegal, Walesa was limited to using the means he had available to get things done.

In many cases, that meant the force of his legendary powers of persuasion. At other times, it simply meant what Walesa says, goes. "nobody during those critical times had the power or inclination to challenge him."

Now, in Poland's struggling democracy, Walesa cannot do himself of his old habits, and it seems at every turn he is making his position worse.

Likewise, Havel is having difficulties adjusting to his new role, which was inflicted upon him a result of his leadership of the "Velvet Revolution" in November.

Popular
An often-imprisoned playwright and essayist who has been dubbed the "philosopher king," Havel is immensely popular.

But he has little understanding of, or appetite for, bread-and-butter issues, and has done nothing while the cabinet has torn itself apart over whether Czechoslovakia should follow Poland's "big bang" approach to economic reform or opt for a slower, less painful path.

Instead, Havel's vision reaches beyond his nation's borders, with grandiose suggestions of a Central Europe federation, invitations for superpower summits in Prague and offers to mediate the Middle East conflict.

"On the international front, he is trying to make Czechoslovakia a friend of the world, and we don't deserve that yet," said one government official. "How can somebody mediate between Israel and the Arabs when he can't mediate between the Czechs and the Slovaks?"

Although Havel purports to hate the trappings of office, a 20-car motorcade swoops him from spot to spot. It is led by a yellow-and-white police escort car that the independent newspaper *Litvy Noviny* described as downright reckless.

QUOTE ME

"Never have so many said so much about so little. The fact is there really was nothing that wasn't prepared and agreed beforehand. They have trivialised summits into how much the leaders and their wives like each other. This was beginning to end a non-event." —A Boston University professor on the superpower summit.

"In respect to the other players, he was on his back for 11 months of forced rest during which he has stored up a lot of energy." —Yugoslav coach Ivica Osim on why Rued Gullit would do well in the World Cup.

"I think he will repeat what happened to Van Basten two years ago at the European Championship: He also had been reduced to a long period of inactivity by injury and then exploded in Germany. Gullit will do the same in Italy." —A Yugoslav soccer official on Gullit's return.

"Boris Nikolavich (Yeltsin) won a big victory today when his chief deputy was elected. Mikhail Sergievich (Gorbachev) will not find Yeltsin crucified when he arrives. A Russian when Russian President Boris Yeltsin finally gained approval for his candidate as first deputy chairman of parliament, shoring up his political position hours before Mikhail Gorbachev's return from the United States.

"I'm very happy to be in the semifinals of my first Grand Slam. This is my biggest accomplishment, and it's a great thing for me to do. I'm very happy and I'll keep going." —Jennifer Capriati after beating Mary Joe Fernandez.

PLO peace dividend meagre
Leadership reassesses strategy

Habash admits policy shift

AMMAN, Jordan, (CSM): Disillusioned by the meagre dividends of their 18-month-old peace offensive, leaders of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) are preparing to reassess their strategy for achieving a Palestinian state.

At a November 1988 meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC), the legislature-in-exile, the PLO abandoned a 25-year goal by agreeing, in effect, to share Palestine with Israel. A month later, PLO leader Yasser Arafat explicitly recognised the Jewish state and renounced terrorism.

At a new PNC meeting expected within months, PLO leaders are likely to reaffirm their commitment to the "two-state" solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict, say Palestinian sources interviewed in Jordan, Syria, Egypt, and the Israeli-occupied West Bank.

But pressure will be exerted by some elements at the PNC to endorse harsher measures to achieve that objective, including stepped up attacks on Israeli military targets in the occupied territories and more frequent commando raids from countries bordering on Israel. If such tactics fail to produce results, these sources warn, the consensus for moderation could eventually collapse.

"It's still a credible strategy and Arafat is still a credible leader," says Jordanian intellectual Hani Horani, referring to the platform adopted at the 1988 PNC, held in Algiers. "But if the historical injustice continues, anything can happen."

Virtually all of the main factions that comprise the PLO have now agreed in principle to convene a PNC meeting. Arafat is said to prefer waiting until after the conclusion of a hoped-for Arab League summit, which is expected to grapple with the issue of Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. The schedule could be advanced if Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir succeeds in forming a narrow-based coalition government opposed to concessions to advance the peace process.

"If Shamir succeeds, Arafat will ready immediately," says a PNC member in Amman.

Palestinian sources close to Arafat's Fatah faction say the policy of moderation adopted at Algiers has produced tangible gains for the PLO, including a more sympathetic hearing in the international community.

These sources also attribute the recent collapse of Israel's national unity government to the carrot-and-stick pressures of the Algiers policy combined with the 29-month Palestinian uprising.

The PLO strategy has left Israel divided "vertically" (factions within Israeli parties) and "horizontally" (within the Israeli public and government) over the issue of peacemaking, notes Nabil Shaath, a Cairo-based member of the PNC. It has also produced deep strains in ties between Israel and the United States.

"No Israeli government can ignore the peace process two more years and maintain public support," adds Shaath. "Those who brought the unity government to its knees will bring Shamir down as well."

But mixed with such optimism is frustration that the PLO's more moderate course has failed to produce a diplomatic breakthrough needed to make

DAMASCUS, (CMS): As a measure of the distance travelled in recent months even by radical members of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), George Habash acknowledges a shift in his own position:

"Myself, the state I'm demanding now is the West Bank, East Jerusalem, and Gaza," says the longtime Marxist leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP). "But I'm not ready to mention this publicly. Maybe after an international conference and Israeli recognition of the Palestinian right to exist."

In an interview in his Damascus office, Dr Habash — a physician from Lydda (now Lod in Israel) who helped found the PFLP in 1968 to fight an all-out war against Israel — also acknowledged benefits gained by PLO leader Yasser Arafat's policy of moderation approved at the 1988 Algiers meeting of the Palestine National Council (PNC).

But Habash says the negatives outweigh the positives, and says he and others will push at the next PNC meeting to intensify the Palestinian uprising in the occupied territories and find means to mobilize the Arab world behind it. He is also critical of Arafat's decision to go beyond the Algiers consensus in explicitly recognizing Israel and renouncing terrorism.

"After two years the policy followed by Arafat — the policy

of giving things in advance — clearly did not succeed. On the whole, the Palestinian people believe that the policy of begging did not work."

"It made Israel and the US administration say, 'whatever we ask the PLO to do, there will come a time when they will agree,'" adds Habash of Arafat's concessions in Geneva in December 1988. "This is why Israel became stubborn."

"(Palestinians) do not want a totally different (policy) but one that stresses very accurately our three main rights: self-determination, the right to return, and having our state," Habash says. The mechanism (for attaining these rights) is not through a meeting in Cairo, but through an international conference."

On Arafat's leadership, Habash adds: Arafat told our people that we are a metre stick having our own state. As a result, the two years past have led to discouragement. Brother Arafat has created a false sense of expectations. He should have told Palestinians that their struggle would be very long and hard.

"We have to show (Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak) Shamir and (former defense minister Ariel) Sharon that Israel is losing, not gaining, from the occupation — by boycotting Israeli goods, stopping tourism, keeping Palestinian workers from jobs in Israel."

"The Palestinians must feel

that 'what is important to me is not how much I am suffering, but how much the Israelis suffer. I am ready to bear much more than the Israelis can bear because they want a normal life. You can have your own state only if you decide to fight forever if necessary.'"

The second largest PLO faction, the PFLP, carried out several attacks in the early 1970s, including the hijacking of four airliners to Jordan in 1970. Several hundred PFLP troops are based in Syria and Lebanon. For the first time since the uprising the PFLP earlier this year issued its own leaflets calling for violent attacks on Israelis and condemning the proposed Israeli-Palestinian dialogue in Cairo backed by Arafat.

On the issue of armed struggle, Habash says: "At present, we are keen to have mass demonstrations shape the uprising. With women and kids with stones facing the Israelis we gain a lot. But I'm ready to think of human losses of Israelis, provided they are soldiers."

"Sometimes I think that there is no other way but a Likud government, so the Sharon himself will come to the conclusion that he cannot put an end to the uprising. Then a big, wide door will open in front of us," says Habash. "Israel will not come to the conclusion to make peace with Palestinians until they try all means and all of them fail."

"We do not have many options," concedes a Damascus-based Palestinian official.

Bowing to pressures from the Palestinian left, the conference will endorse an escalation of the intifada, even as it reaffirms PLO commitment to a two-state solution, Palestinian sources say.

Meanwhile, the PLO will step up its determination to gain the backing of Arab states, especially the oil-rich Gulf states which have the financial resources to support Palestinian education, health care, and welfare services.

"There are fewer illusions that the Palestinian state will come tomorrow. The PNC will become more businesslike in its attempt to deal with issues one at a time."

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Art Buchwald

No space on wall for Van Gogh

THIS summer it's very possible that you will run into people who'll ask, "Why didn't you buy Van Gogh's Dr Gachet for \$82.5 million or Renoir's Moulin de la Galette for \$78.1 million?"

You needn't be embarrassed by the question. Just use one of these replies:

"We don't have the wall space for the Van Gogh because our children wouldn't let us take down their Mother's Day drawings."

"I intended to bid, but the Japanese had their heart set on the pictures, and they have so little of anything as it is."

"Renoir's colours didn't go with our drapes."

"Do you know what it costs to frame an Impressionist painting these days?"

Fit
"We would have bought the Moulin de la Galette but it wouldn't fit into our Volkswagen."

"I have a friend, Bill Morice, who told me that I didn't have to go to the auction as he would take me to Van Gogh's studio to meet him personally."

"My wife might have been persuaded to buy the Renoir, but she can't stand Mrs Renoir."

French painting that has hung on God knows how many people's walls."

"I started to collect Van Goghs the day he cut off his ear."

"We don't have \$82.5 million for a picture, but if we did, we'd buy a Mapplethorpe photo instead."

"Renoir's Moulin de la Galette isn't a bad painting, but unfortunately it has too many people in it for our taste."

"Years ago we had a choice of either collecting Rembrandts or baseball cards. Thank God, we chose the baseball cards."

"Lucy Scott asked me not to bid on the Renoir so that she could have it. Then she stopped raising her hand when it reached \$330."

"We'll probably buy both works this summer when the Japanese businessman, Ryoei Saito, has his annual garage sale."

"My wife was about to purchase the Dr Gachet when I pointed out to her that Van Gogh never painted any landscapes of the Augusta National Golf Course."

Customers
"Because we are favoured customers, we have

reserved seats at Sotheby's for any softball game on their schedule."

"I hate the role money is playing in the art game. The baloney days of paying a lousy \$5 million for a White Rock calendar are over."

"I would have bought Renoir's Moulin de la Galette, but the artist refused to retouch it to make it more American."

"The reason we don't buy anything is because the auctioneer at Christie's never looks our way when we're bidding."

"He may have talent but Van Gogh is no friend of the farmer."

"Someday the Japanese are going to come back to New York on their hands and knees and beg us to buy back their paintings."

"Picasso makes me smile, but Norman Rockwell makes me think."

"Ralph went to the auction with me but lost interest when he found out that Van Gogh never painted any landscapes of the Augusta National Golf Course."

Los Angeles Times Syndicate

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Strike ruled out

Flights delay

By M.C. Bose
Business Editor

THE in-coming Friday Air-India flight from Bombay to Kuwait has been delayed 24 hours. Air-India sources in Kuwait told the Arab Times. Air-India Bombay office informed the Air-India officials in Kuwait that technical reasons were the cause for delay. The delay has also affected direct flight between Kuwait and Trivandrum. The flight which was scheduled to depart Kuwait at 7.45 Friday morning was also delayed by 24 hours.

Similarly the evening flight which was to depart at 10.45 from Kuwait has been delayed by 24 hours. Many passengers who reserved for the Kuwait-Trivandrum flight telephoned the Arab Times and said "the delay caused a lot of inconvenience to the passengers particularly the families with children."

They said some of the passengers were offered alternate accommodation at the airport. A few of the passengers returned home and likely to travel this morning. Air-India officials informed the passengers on telephone about the revised flight schedule.

Rumours have been circulating in Kuwait that pilots in Bombay have declared a strike, but an Air-India official here has ruled out the rumour.

Private sector role vital

Kuwait revives economy

KUWAIT, June 8. (Kuna): Finance Minister Jassem Mohammed Al Khorafi today affirmed the government's keenness toward involving the private sector in reviving the national economy.

In an interview with Kuna, Al Khorafi welcomed initiatives by companies and individuals in providing services to the public in place of official institutions and said that the state is prepared to make way for the private sector to develop the current services and originate new ones.

He also praised the experience of some companies which began to provide public services for reasonable prices. Such services include selling fast stamps through banks and cleaning public facilities such as hospitals.

The finance minister said that the government aims at spreading a spirit of competition among private firms and not to monopolise public services, unless such a step targets public interest.

He noted that companies providing the same services must co-ordinate among themselves by complementing each other's activities, giving the example of the Mobile Telephone Systems Company (MTSC), which he said can provide and supervise the service and leave the selling and maintenance of telephones to more than one company.

He added, however, that some activities can only absorb one company, such as the Touristic Enterprises Company (TEC), but noted that the TEC can co-operate with other privately-owned firms in running the company's facilities, hence sparing it some financial and administrative burdens.

WORLD STOCK ROUNDUP

TOKYO, June 8. (Reuters): Volume tapered off after early volatility on settlement-buying following Thursday's expiry of the June index futures. The Nikkei average lost 199.21 to close at 32,993.29.

SYDNEY: The market ended weaker but off its lows after arbitrageurs took advantage of discounted leading stocks in the afternoon. The All Ordinaries index fell 5.1 points to 1,504.1.

HONG KONG: Renewed buying by overseas institutions boosted the Hang Seng index to 29,033.33.

SINGAPORE: Prices rose over a broad front on renewed buying interest and some short-covering. The Straits Times index gained 14.97 points to close at 1,568.07.

FRANKFURT: The Dax index closed at 1,822.23, down 15.2 points. "There's no real activity at all," a trader commented.

Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs)	Pr. Close	Open	Close
ACC	491	484.50	484
Adani Chem	—	—	—
Adani Nis	—	—	—
Adani Fab	—	—	—
Adani Ley	82	80	81
Adani Paint	340	338.75	340
Adani Cap	34	33.50	36
Adani Corp	65	63	65
Nat Index	426.93	460	463.75
Bajaj Auto	461.25	460	463.75
Bar Kayon	887.50	887.50	887.50
Blow Plast	217	216	223
Bom Dye	110	113	114.50
Burr Well	70	65	70
Cashmere	—	—	—
Cen Enka	3775	3750	3775
Cen Sps	3530	3500	3490
Colgate	220	220	220
Crompti Gr	1100	1090	1100
DCM	26.50	25	26.50
Deep Fert	30.50	30.50	31
Dunlop	60	60	62
El Hotels	58	58	59
Excorts	94.70	94	94.25
SESE Index	794.18	—	—
Esakvel	142.50	143.75	142.50
Esar Sps	36	33.50	35.50
Food Spl	117.50	117.50	118
Forbes	52	52	53
Gar Poly	31	30.50	30.50
GL India	99	99	99.50
GNFC	39.25	39.25	39
Graham	122.75	122	122
GE Shpg	45.75	45.50	45
GSFC	202.50	202.50	201.25
Guj Alkl	87.25	85.50	87
Guj Heavy	16	15.50	16
Hera Honda	23.50	23.50	23.50
Hind Ciba	1395	1410	1400
Hind Lever	119	118.75	119.50
Hind Cocoa	147	145	146
Hind Hndls	32.50	32.25	32.75
Hindlco	380	376.25	376.25
Hochst	2020	2030	1990
Ingersoll	220	215	220

Jordan tries to cut budget deficit

AMMAN, June 8. (Reuters): Prime Minister Mudar Badran said yesterday his government was striving to reduce the budget deficit and increase Jordan's self-reliance, in line with economic reforms agreed with the International Monetary Fund.

He told Reuters the IMF was impressed with progress already achieved on expanding exports, cutting imports and squeezing spending since the programme began in 1989.

The government would try to spend no more than 70 million dinars (\$105 million) on food subsidies this year, but the cost could balloon to 100 million dinars (\$150 million) "if things stay loose," Badran said in an interview.

The budget allotted 60 million dinars (\$90 million) for subsidies, which cover sugar — the costliest item — wheat, rice and milk for babies. Meat subsidies were ended early this year.

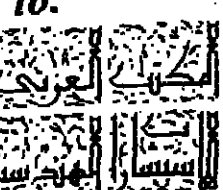
Badran said the government was planning to target subsidies to the needy, but did not say when this would happen.

He described last month's Palestinian protests in Jordan as a release of past frustrations.

Quantity Surveyors

Required for post contract supervision duties. Applicants should have several years' experience as a quantity surveyor and be conversant with measurement and contract administration procedures.

Applications with CV should be made to:



The Chief Quantity Surveyor
Pan Arab Consulting Engineers
Telephone: 2669600
Fax: 2656830

Plans approved to boost share trading

Bahrain stock market opens door to investors

BAHRAIN, June 8. (Reuters): Bahrain's fledgling stock market is poised to take off after a series of pioneering steps allowing foreign investors into the Gulf for the first time.

Stock exchange head Fawzi Behzad told bankers this week the government had approved wide-ranging plans to boost share trading on the year-old bourse.

This included asking international firms to list their shares and allowing foreigners to trade in stock of local companies through mutual funds and trusts to be set up soon.

"Bahrain has the infrastructure for an international stock exchange... we are already for this to happen," he said.

Bahrain — the Middle East's main banking centre — broke new ground this year by deciding to allow investors from outside the six-member Gulf Co-operation Council (GCC) to trade shares from

Arab Banking Corporation (ABC) on the island's bourse.

GCC states Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates allow only their own nationals to trade shares locally and this is limited to 25 per cent of any firm. No foreign companies are listed elsewhere in the Gulf.

"We hope the ABC share flotation will stimulate other interested foreign companies to tap the liquidity in the area by listing their shares on the exchange," Behzad said.

Economists said the ABC move might have little impact on Bahrain initially because deals could be concluded more quickly in Paris, where the bank will also be listed after its \$350 million public share issue closes at the end of June.

Deals on the Bahrain exchange, listing 29 companies with a total nominal capital of \$1.6 billion, are carried out

manually and settled within three days.

Behzad said business had soared nearly five-fold in the year after the exchange opened to 73 million shares worth 20.2 million dinars (\$54 million).

It reached 20.6 million shares worth 4.4 million dinars \$11.7 million the previous year.

Brokers say a decision by the government to sell its entire 42 per cent stake in a leading local firm, the Bahrain Hotels Company, brought in many new cash-rich GCC investors in May.

A total of 3.6 million shares worth 6.5 million dinars (\$17.3 million) were sold in 10 days.

More share flotations are planned. Exchange officials say the government will sell its stake in the Bahrain Aluminium Extrusion Company — which makes window and door frames from locally produced ingots — in the next two

weeks. Behzad said the government had also approved a plan to split the shares in local companies 10 for one to make them more attractive to local investors.

Brokers say this should make Bahraini investors more willing to sell shares which have plummeted to a fraction of what they were worth during the oil boom years.

"It's a psychological boost because the shares look cheaper and people can make a profit even if there's a slight fluctuation in prices," one broker said.

Share prices in Bahrain rose in 1990 after many companies and banks reported higher 1989 profits. There is no index yet.

Behzad said Bahraini firms and banks would be allowed to trade on the exchange for the first time in a bid to encourage them to act as market-makers. A committee was also studying the

possibility of listing Kuwaiti companies on the Bahrain exchange and vice versa. Kuwait has a larger market and trade value is around \$10.3 million a day, compared with \$280,000 in Bahrain.

Behzad said other measures included: — Inviting foreign securities houses to join the six local brokers who are now members of the exchange.

— Allowing government and corporate bonds to be listed on secondary market.

— Introducing margin trading which allows investors to buy securities on credit.

— Encouraging banks to settle delinquent accounts by selling shares kept as collateral on the exchange.

— Encouraging public companies to buy five per cent of their shares as treasury stock to support prices.

— Encouraging closed Bahraini companies to issue shares to the public.

Pakistan presents budget

Slight increase in defence spending

War threat cited as the reason

ISLAMABAD, June 8. (Reuters): Pakistan's defence spending ballooned by more than 18 per cent this year following tension with India over a Muslim uprising in Indian Kashmir, budget figures released yesterday showed.

Presenting the budget to the National Assembly, Finance Minister Ehsanul Haq Piracha said a rise in defence spending was inevitable under the circumstances on the border.

But opposition members were not there to listen to his speech. They walked out of the chamber after accusing him of corruption and demanding that Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto present the budget instead of him.

Piracha has been embroiled in controversy since being censured by the

high court for his part in setting up a Stock Exchange in Islamabad. He is appealing to the Supreme Court.

"We have no option but to boycott this speech by a corrupt minister," opposition leader Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi told the assembly before leading his supporters out of the chamber.

The 1989/90 (July/June) rise in defence spending from \$2.22 billion rupees to \$1.93 billion (\$2.37-2.81 billion) was much greater than a four billion rupee (\$181 million) rise widely reported in April.

Western diplomats said Pakistan has been scouring the world arms markets for weapons and ammunition in recent months and asking its traditional suppliers for accelerated deliveries in case war broke out with India.

Both sides have moved troops up to forward positions along their border in recent months following an upsurge in secessionist militancy in Kashmir that India blames on Pakistan.

India, in its budget presented in February, increased spending by 27 per cent to \$9.54 billion, citing the row with Pakistan as the reason.

However, Pakistan's armed forces stand to only get a further 2.2 per cent rise to 63.27 billion rupees (\$2.88 billion) in 1990/91 — less than half the current inflation rate of 5.7 per cent.

Piracha told parliament that total spending is set to rise 7.2 per cent to 250.19 billion rupees (\$10.46 billion), development expenditure rising by 14.5 per cent and current expenditure by 5.4 per cent.

Benazir has denied the allegations, but critics say she is either out of touch with what is going on or is unable to control it.

The allegations have never been proved and Benazir has challenged opponents to present any evidence before the courts.

Last month, the Lahore High Court overturned a decision announced a year earlier by Piracha to set up the Islamabad Stock Exchange.

The court ruled the decision was illegal because he had named a company in which he had an interest to run the operation and called it "a clear act of favouritism and nepotism."

The case, which does not involve criminal charges, has been appealed to the Supreme Court.

Arab executives don't worry about job stress

MANAMA, Bahrain, June 8. (AP): Stress is a dominant concern of American business executives, but Arab executives in Bahrain wonder what the fuss is all about, a US researcher reports.

Margaret Arnold, a business management expert at the University of Bahrain, said Arab managers scrapped a question on stress in the initial stage of a two-year study on job motivation and satisfaction she is conducting.

Arnold, 51, of Minneapolis, Minnesota, will present her findings at two conferences — the Pacific International business conference in Seoul, Korea, and the international conference on comparative management in Kao Chung, Taiwan.

Bahrain's island community, although moder-

nized by oil wealth and sustained by an active financial sector, has a relatively laid-back business environment, steeped in Arab tradition.

But, Arnold noted: "The Arab business world is in a period of transition from a traditional Eastern style of management based on the family to a more modern, Western style."

"For the Western businessman dealing with the Arab market, a study like this is invaluable because it provides an insight into the values of the Arab business environment," Arnold told the Associated Press in an interview.

Bahraini executives, by omitting stress reduction from the test, indicated that they don't consider it a significant factor in their business lives.

By contrast, the stress factor, something which

all American executives know and try to avoid, causes a variety of problems such as heart attacks, divorces, ulcers and excessive drinking.

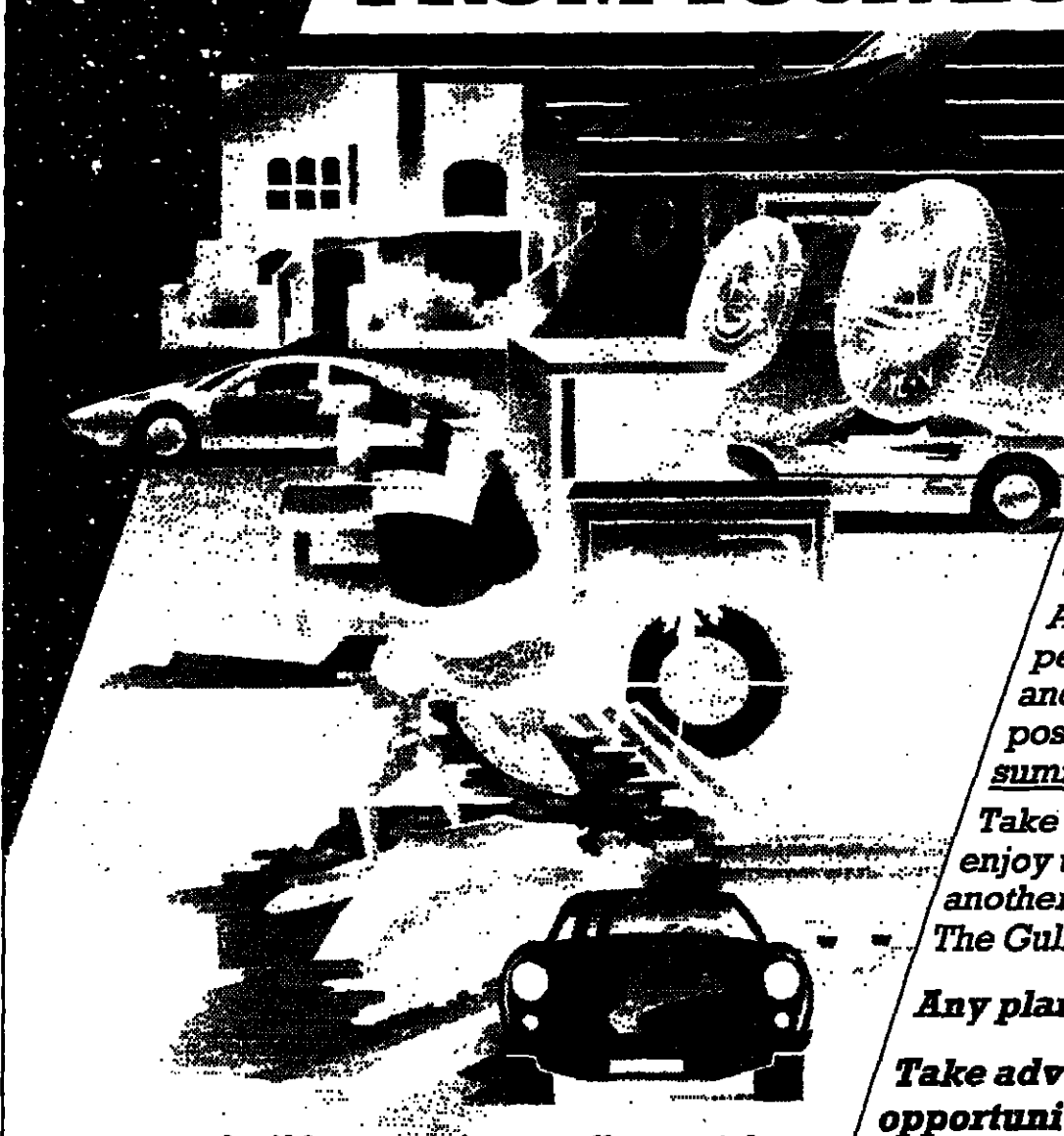
Stress reduction is ranked a primary job satisfier in America.

Besides stress, Arnold's study also shows a difference in attitude between Bahrainis and Americans toward pay.

In the oil-rich Gulf, which has the highest per capita incomes in the world, managers think hard about salary — the average being 12,000 dinars (\$31,800) a year.

Americans, who are already highly paid at the manager level, starting at \$40,000 a year, do not consider it a major motivator.

TAKE LEAVE FROM YOUR LOAN



With our offer of upto 3 months postponement of instalments this summer.

If you are a customer with a consumer loan, here is your opportunity to have 3 months' grace from making repayments

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Holidays, travel and shopping for you and your family!

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Apply for a 3 month grace period of your consumer loan and have your instalments postponed until after your summer vacation.

Take leave from your loan... enjoy the summer with yet another unique service from The Gulf Bank.

Any plans this summer?

Take advantage of this opportunity now!



THE GULF BANK

Banking in the '90s on service excellence and...

FINDING NEW WAYS TO HELP YOU.

World Bank loan to Dhaka

WASHINGTON, June 8, (UPI): The World Bank Thursday announced a \$175 million loan to help Bangladesh reform its financial sector to enable banks to operate more efficiently and to improve allocation of financial resources in the economy.

The \$175 million loan will be provided by the International Development Association, the World's affiliate that provides concessional terms credit to the poorest countries.

The multilateral organisation said that Bangladesh's reforms will strengthen the financial sector through changes in interest rate and monetary policies, improvements in the way banks provide loans to investors, and an increase in the central bank's capacity for supervising and regulating banks.

The IDA credit is for 40 years, including 10 years of grace, and carries no interest.

The World Bank Thursday announced a \$250 million loan to help Poland increase production of natural gas and promote energy conservation.

The \$250 million loan will finance development and rehabilitation of existing gas fields, evaluation of recently discovered fields, expansion of transmission and storage facilities, and adoption of new gas processing and desulfurization technologies.

The European Investment Bank is providing \$60 million in co-financing for the project, the World Bank said.

The World Bank also announced a \$190 million loan to help Indonesia expand water and sewerage systems in Jakarta and surrounding urban areas.

The project includes the construction of 3,000 public hydrants in poor neighbourhoods, improvements in the waste-water disposal and drainage systems, and strengthening of the planning, management, staffing and financial viability of the area's water supply and sewerage institutions.

The multilateral organisation noted that since 1960 the population of greater Jakarta has more than doubled to about 15 million and is expected to increase to more than 26 million by the year 2005.

The World Bank today announced a \$30 million loan to Papua New Guinea.

Capital spending to increase

WASHINGTON, June 8, (UPI): American business plan to increase capital spending by 5.5 per cent in 1990, a slower pace than previously estimated and the lowest level in three years, the Commerce Department said yesterday.

The slowdown reflects the sluggish national economy.

The 5.5 per cent projection for spending on plants and equipment — not counting inflation — is lower than the department's Census Bureau initial April estimate of 7.6 per cent, which was revised up to 7.9 per cent.

It is also the worst showing since a gain of about 4.2 per cent in 1987, a Commerce Department spokesman said.

The government attributed the decline to higher inflation. Private economists had expected the capital spending figure to remain at its earlier level.

"Real spending increased 1.8 per cent in the first quarter of 1990, following a 0.6 per cent increase in the fourth quarter of 1989," the Commerce Department said in its quarterly report.

"It is expected to increase 1.1 per cent in the second quarter of 1990, to increase 0.7 per cent in the third quarter, and to decrease 0.4 per cent in the fourth quarter," the department said.

West German economy still roaring ahead

BONN, June 8, (Reuters): West Germany's economy, in the eighth year of a boom, is still roaring ahead, giving no hint of weakening despite impending German economic union.

Data released by the Federal Statistics Office in Wiesbaden on Wednesday showed West Germany should achieve an annual growth rate of four per cent this year, matching that of 1989.

The economics ministry said West German real gross national product (GNP) grew at 4.4 per cent a year in the first quarter of 1990, up from 2.5 per cent in the last quarter of 1989.

"It was a super figure, showing how dynamic the West German economy is expanding," Ulrich Beckmann at Deutsche Bank Ag.

Many economists had expected 3.5 to

UK stock market learns respect for the future

LONDON, June 8, (Reuters): British share dealers have learnt a telling lesson — respect for the future.

Shares have rocketed in London over the past month and the Financial Times-Stock Exchange futures contract has often triggered the move ahead.

The FTSE futures contract is based on the FTSE-100 index which charts the prices of 100 leading stocks and is a vehicle for speculating on where the FTSE will stand at a future date.

How the futures contract opens can send tremors through the FTSE 100 stocks because assessments of their future worth will trigger buying or selling of the shares themselves.

Stock market dealers still say the future moving the market is like a tail wagging a dog, but dealers in FTSE futures prefer to think of themselves as leading the dog.

"Volume in the FTSE futures market has been growing sharply and will continue to explode," says Fiona Morrison, a stock index futures broker at futures and options house GNI Ltd.

As well as being an effective way of hedging against risk, futures trading is quick and cheap, dealers say.

The volume of FTSE contracts has hit 17,000 a day in recent hectic sessions compared with an average daily volume of 5,500 over the last six months

to a year. GNI's Morrison says daily FTSE futures volume could jump to between 20,000 and 25,000 by the year-end, as tax changes on trading in stock-market related products take effect.

On Tuesday Liffe, the London International Financial Futures Exchange, said FTSE 100 futures contract volume hit a record 138,003 contracts in May, up 51 per cent since April and 12 per cent above the previous record 122,970 traded in October 1989.

One quiet May morning saw dealers putting prices on screens around 0700 to 0730 GMT, when the June FTSE future opened at a 60 point premium to the actual stock market index against a

normal 20 to 25 gap — opening the chance for arbitrageurs whose job it is to exploit differences between one market and another.

Panic broke out. Market makers — short of stock themselves — bought on the stock market, driving prices higher toward those on futures.

The futures market is a means of hedging against risk and dealing in futures is a judgement on the direction in which the FTSE 100 index, referred to in the markets as the cash index, is headed.

A June FTSE futures contract bought at 2,300 points which rises to

2,400 by the expiration date is worth £25 (\$42) per a point to an investor, a profit of £2,500 (\$42,000) in total.

Losses accrue at the same rate. The value of FTSE contract mirrors the cash FTSE index. On a FTSE of 2,400, the June future would be valued at around £60,000 (\$100,000) says Brendan Bradley, senior options analyst at Liffe.

One attraction is the small amount of money one has to lodge to buy a contract, just £2,500 (\$4,200).

"The low margin means many people find FTSE futures more attractive than shares," says Randal Goldsmith, equity analyst at James Capel. "A lot of institutions who hadn't

used it for this purpose before are starting to," says Liffe's Phillips.

An institution with a balanced portfolio of stocks which turns bearish on the market can simply sell FTSE futures but keep its chosen stocks.

Institutions are also using the FTSE future when they change stance on the equity market. Buying the future is more future and unlikely to stir as wild a rally as their appearance in the equity market. They can then buy stocks afterwards.

British futures dealing is small compared with the US Chicago Futures Exchange, where average daily stock index value of trading surpasses that on the New York Stock Exchange.

Fresh bid to lure back funds invested abroad

Oman market booms but shares scarce

DUBAI, June 8, (Reuters): Oman's securities market exceeded all turnover targets in its first year but still has a long way to go to attract shareholders willing to sell their stocks, financial analysts say.

Shares valued at 16.27 million Omani riyals (\$42.3 million) have been traded since the exchange opened on May 20 last year until the end of May 1990, said Hashem Ali Sabbagh, an adviser who set up the Muscat securities market.

The turnover target for the first year was set at six million riyals (\$15.6 million).

"This can be described as a boom and interest in the market is growing day by day," he told Reuters in a telephone interview from Muscat.

But bankers and financial analysts in Oman said market activity was thin because of the reluctance of most controlling

owners in major companies to putting their shares up for sale.

The exchange was set up to attract local savings into the economy and lure back funds invested abroad.

Bankers say there is a growing demand even from small investors to buy stocks but that supply is limited.

Some companies are so profitable that, apart from fears of losing control of their firms, current share-owners prefer to keep their holdings rather than trade them.

Sabbagh said the price/earnings ratio of some firms — market price of stock as a multiple of per share earnings — areas high as six to one.

"The (big) shareowners have some price ideas in their minds and they want to realise these," a leading stockbroker said.

Seventy-four Omani compan-

ies are listed at the exchange with a total capitalisation of around 600 million Omani riyals (\$1.56 billion), said Sabbagh.

He said the exchange would not start an index before trading in major stocks became regular each day.

"When we have 15 companies traded regularly every day we can issue an index," said Sabbagh. "Now we have three or four."

However one of the six brokerage houses allowed to deal on the floor of the exchange has been testing an index and plans to announce it on a regular basis soon, financial sources said.

The most actively traded stocks are in banks, insurance companies and some agro-industries, brokers said.

Although the number of small transactions is growing, the market sometimes witnesses one single big stock movement

involving several hundred thousand shares, one broker said.

But shares of some companies listed at the exchange have never been traded, one analyst pointed out.

"This is not a healthy situation, the aim of the market is to have the shares of all companies purchased and sold by a large number of people," he added.

But brokers and exchange officials are confident about the future as daily trading volume is said to be growing. To stimulate trading interest, the market has been holding evening sessions twice a week since last October.

Sabbagh said daily trading involved shares valued at 15,000 to 20,000 Omani riyals (\$39,000 to \$52,000) last year when the exchange opened. It now sometimes saw shares change hands in one day of over 100,000 riyals (\$260,000).

World Bank to finance projects in Iran

No plan to devalue rial

NICOSIA, June 8, (Reuters): Iran had no plans to devalue the rial, which has lost 95 per cent of its official value since 1979, the country's finance minister said yesterday.

Minister Mohsen Nourbakhsh also told a Tehran news conference that World Bank officials had shown interest in financing development projects in Iran.

"There is no need for such a change (in rial's value) as it would not help the economy at the present juncture," the Iranian news agency Irna quoted Nourbakhsh as saying.

Critics blame the artificially high value of about 70 rials per dollar, maintained since the 1979 Islamic Revolution, for hurting domestic production and distortion prices.

The dollar fetches more than 1,400 rials on the open market.

In April, the head of the parliament's plan and

budget commission, Morteza Alviri, said Iran would unveil a plan within a few months to prepare grounds for devaluing the rial to between 700 and 800 per dollar.

Nourbakhsh said Iran's foreign debt, all related to pre-1979 loans, totalled between \$200 and \$300 million.

The debt, negligible compared with the huge amounts owed by many other Third World countries, would be repaid regularly as payments became due, he said.

Iran's economic development plan adopted in January authorised the government to use \$27.6 billion of foreign credit over the next five years, much of it through financing of infrastructural projects.

Nourbakhsh said the types of credit facilities offered by the International Monetary Fund (IMF) were not suitable to Iran's needs.

Nikkei stock average: 32993.29

(-199.21)

Volume: 700 mil shs

Yen exchange rate: 152.65

Name of stock	Cl	Ch
Advantec Corp	3840	+40
Aijomoto	2060	+10
Alps Electric	2180	+30
Amada	1810	-20
Asahi Chem Ind	940	-10
Asahi Glass	1900	-10
C. Itoh Co.	892	0
Canon Inc.	1780	+10
Casio Comp	1600	-10
Dai Nippon Printing	1990	-20
Daiichi Seiyaku	2380	-20
Dainippon Pb	2780	+30
Daisanku Corp	1780	+40
Eisai	1880	0
Fujitsu Ltd	7250	-40
Fuji Photo	4190	+10
Fujitsu Ltd	1450	+10
Hitachi Credit	1700	0

Tokyo shares

Name of stock	Cl	Ch
Hitachi Koki	2360	-20
Hitachi Ltd	1430	-20
Hitachi Metal	1520	-40
Hitachi Zosen	1770	-40
Ito Yokado Co	4160	0
Kajima Corp	1970	-10
Kawasaki H I	957	-20
Kobe Cast Iron	1850	-40
Kokusai Elec	4920	-30
Koromaru Ltd	1210	0
Kyocera Corp	3990	-10
Matsushita Ind	3130	-10
Matsushita Ind	3640	-40
Matsushita Ind	2200	-40
Mazda M C	950	-40
Mitsubishi Corp	1360	-10
Mitsubishi Estate	1650	-20
Mitsubishi F I	1050	-30
Mitsui R E	1950	-30

Kenyan budget targets exports

NAIROBI, June 8, (Reuters): Kenya announced measures on Thursday aimed at reducing its budget deficit and encouraging private sector and export-oriented investment.

Rapid export expansion would raise incomes and provide foreign exchange needed to pay for imports for new industries, Finance Minister George Saitoti said in his budget speech to parliament.

As part of that strategy, he announced plans to set up what he called export processing zones (EPZs).

Saitoti forecast a drop in the fiscal deficit to 3.9 per cent of gross domestic product from an estimated 4.2 per cent in 1989/90. Overall, net recurrent expenditures for 1990-91 would rise to 28.9 million Kenyan shillings (\$1.26 billion) from 26.21 billion Ksh (\$1.3 billion), he said.

Development spending would go up to 19.4 billion Ksh (\$844 million) from 18.4 billion (\$899.6 million).

Corporate tax was cut for the second year running, to 40 per cent from 42.5 per cent.

A value added tax (VAT) introduced on virtually all goods and services would continue in fiscal year 1990/91, he said.

Saitoti said he was introducing a bill in parliament to establish the legal framework for WPPs, adding incentives for investors would include a 100 per cent write-off on investment costs, a 10-year tax holiday and duty free access to inputs.

To encourage small scale investors, Saitoti said unit trusts (mutual funds) would be re-activated.

US growth index stable

World economy remains sluggish

NEW YORK, June 8, (UPI): The world economy continued to expand at a very slow pace while Japan's soaring business growth has reached a halt, a survey by the Conference Board said yesterday.

The leading index representing the economic development of the 11 most industrialised nations currently indicates a growth of one per cent, down from two per cent three months ago and three per cent six months ago, said the independent group which conducts economic surveys world-wide.

The growth index for the United States remains stable at 2 per cent, the same level as three and six months ago, and a full point above the 11-nation average.

The major factor in the survey is a sharp drop in the leading business' growth rate in Japan, which dropped to zero per cent, compared with a 7 per cent growth rate three months ago, and a nine per cent growth rate six months ago.

"The Pacific region continues to show the greatest strength, mainly in Taiwan where the leading index is growing at an annual rate of eight per cent," the survey said. "Growth has slowed in Japan where the leading indexes are growing at zero per cent."

The Pacific region's index grew by five per cent,

compared with 6 per cent three months ago and 10 per cent six months ago.

"The weakest economy among those 11 countries is still Australia, where the long drop in the leading index — declining at a rate of six per cent — looks more and more like a recession," the board said.

Australia recorded a negative growth rate of six per cent, two points lower than minus four per cent three months ago and a one per cent positive growth six months ago.

"Growth rates in Europe are essentially flat with West Germany being the exception," the board said. "Its leading index is growing at a five per cent pace."

Italy is showing a 2 per cent growth rate, while France and Britain recorded negative growth rates of minus one per cent and minus 3 per cent respectively.

The negative rates in France and Britain, however, represent an improvement over minus three per cent and minus four per cent respectively three months ago.

Overall, Europe showed no growth, compared with a mere one per cent growth three and six months ago.

Bonn trade surplus dips

Exports set to rise further

WIESBADEN, West Germany, June 8, (Reuters): West Germany's trade and current account surpluses fell sharply in April, Federal Statistics Office data showed yesterday.

The twin surpluses from Europe's biggest economy were almost half of the relatively high figures posted in March and well down in April last year.

The big drop was due to the fact that West Germany sold one billion marks (\$600,000 million) less of exports in April than a year ago while it imported goods worth an additional 1.2 billion marks (\$750,000 million).

Exports totalled \$2.44 billion marks (\$31 billion) in April while imports were 44.82 billion marks (\$26.5 billion).

The trade surplus stood at 7.6 billion marks (\$4.5 billion) in April compared with 13.4 billion (7.9 billion) in March and 9.9 billion mark (\$5.8 billion) in April, 1989.

The current account surplus, which includes trade of services such as banking, tourism and insurance, fell to 5.7 billion marks (\$3.4 billion) in April from 10.4 billion (6.1 billion) in March and was a third down on the 8.3 billion (4.9 billion) of April, 1989.

The fall had been anticipated by economists in the

light of a stronger West German mark, which made German goods more expensive abroad, and rising imports due to an economic boom.

However, the statistics office drew attention to the fact that there were three fewer working days in April than in March.

Imports have risen faster than exports since January. During the first four months of the year, imports adjusted for price changes, increased almost 10 per cent from the same period last year while exports only rose 6.1 per cent.

Imports are expected to continue rising this year as the rebuilding of East Germany's dilapidated economy begins.

Economists and the economics ministry expect West Germany's trade surplus this year to shrink from 1989's record 13.4 billion marks (\$80 billion).

Separately, the Economics Ministry said orders for West German industry dipped 3.4 per cent in April from March, reversing an almost equal rise in March from February.

Despite the drop, the ministry said foreign orders for capital goods, such as industrial machinery and tools, rose in April, partially due to some large orders.

four per cent growth.

"These figures showed the weakening of the West German economy — which many big institutions are expecting — has not yet taken place," said Stefan May at the research division of Bayerische Hypothek-Und Wechselbank Ag.

West Germany will on July 1, merge its economy with the formerly communist-run East Germany, a step which some experts had expected could impose huge costs and dampen growth.

West Germany's five leading economic research institutes forecast a 3.75 per cent economic growth.

But Finance Minister Theo Waigel expects growth this year of up to four per cent.

Economists said a strong growth in capital investments and consumer

demand, prompted by a 25 billion mark (\$15 billion) tax cut this year, would continue to boost the economy, putting it on track to achieve four per cent growth.

Nearly 300,000 immigrants, who arrived from East Germany and other European countries since January, also increased demand during the first three months of this year, they said.

"There is a shift from an export-oriented growth of last year to an expansion pulled by domestic demand," said May.

Capital investment grew 15.9 per cent in the first quarter from the same period last year. Private consumption, which lagged economic growth last year, rose four per cent during the first three months of this year.

A strong building output, which grew

7.4 per cent in the first quarter on year-on-year basis, is likely to slow down as it was mainly due to a warm winter this year, economists said.

Economists were divided on the impact of German monetary and economic union in the short term, while they agree on its positive effects over the long term. Unity would create a larger market and workforce and demand will rise from the rebuilding of East Germany's infrastructure.

Deutsche Bank's Beckmann expects a three per cent inflation rise this year, after a 2.8 per cent increase in 1989.

But Hypo's May did not expect inflationary pressure this year. Markets had already discounted the rising demand for capital as the interest rate level had risen by about 30 per cent in real terms since November last year.

The British Council Students — are you going to Britain this autumn?

If you have been offered a place for full-time study (or already hold a place) in a British University, Polytechnic or college then you are invited to a special **Reception Party!** We at The British Council would like to see you and wish you luck — as well as provide you with some useful information on how to live in Britain once you are there.

The date: Wednesday 27th June

The Time: 6:00 pm

The place: The British Council, 2, Al Arabi St. Mansouriyah

Please telephone or drop by to collect your free ticket.

Contact Mrs. Kate Harries or Mrs. Liz Lockey on 252 0067/8/9.



CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT

ANNOUNCEMENT

For Subscription in Issue No. (124) for Treasury Bills
Authorised by Decree Law No. (50) of 1987

CENTRAL BANK OF KUWAIT, on behalf of the Ministry of Finance of the State of Kuwait, hereby announces the offering of TREASURY BEARER BILLS in Kuwaiti Dinar for SUBSCRIPTION in compliance with the following Rules and Regulations:

- AMOUNT OF ISSUE:**
The Amount of this Issue is KD 120 million distributed over THREE Denominations as follows:
KD 50 000, KD 250 000, KD 500 000
- ISSUE DATE:** Wednesday 13 / 6 / 1990
- DUE DATE:** Wednesday 12 / 9 / 1990
- OFFERING PERIOD:**
From: Saturday 9 / 6 / 1990
To: Tuesday 12 / 6 / 1990
- ALLOTMENT:** Wednesday 13 / 6 / 1990
- DELIVERY OF BILLS:**
After one week following the date of submitting the application.
- The Provisions of this Issue shall be subject to the Rules and Conditions stipulated in the Announcement for Subscription in Issue No. (1) for Treasury Bills, published in the Local Newspapers of Saturday, November 21, 1987, and in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Yaum) No. 1748 issued Sunday, November 22, 1987.

TRAVEL & TOURISM

AN ARAB TIMES SPECIAL SUPPLEMENT



Travellers crowd London's Heathrow Airport.

Sunny smiles in cold country

Globe-trotting

TRAVEL, as a past-time or a necessity, is no longer what it used to be. Not that I am nostalgic for the good old days. In fact the phrase does not exist in my vocabulary. The problem is that in a fast-changing world it is getting increasingly difficult to give travel tips to your friends.

A colleague who visited the USSR a few years ago thought she was being helpful when she told me not to expect waiters in Moscow to be smiling and eager to please a customer. I may have been misled. With glasnost, and even the faltering perestroika, I am told some waiters are all smiles, and the owner of that famous private eating-house in the capital that serves Russian delicacies but does not accept Russian roubles is singing all the way to the bank.

They used to say if you go to France don't speak English. For years I have struggled with my poor French and admittedly came to no grief. But with a united Europe coming into view not only are the British frantically studying French but also, I am told, the French might stop pretending that they don't speak English.

I've just been getting ready to offer a valuable piece of advice to some friends who are planning to visit Yugoslavia this summer. I was going to tell them to take with them two (empty) potato or rice sacks. Last year, this was an indispensable piece of luggage for all visitors. The sacks were used to carry wads of (then worthless) Yugoslav dinar notes they exchanged at the bank to pay their hotel bills. But Yugoslav premier Ante Markovic preempted my move. He has demonetized the Yugoslav dinar and made it convertible, killing the inflation and

Arab Times reporter Jadranka Porter takes a light-hearted look at globe-trotting ... and the hidden hazards of travel.

the black market. Now, I am told, one sack will do for a family of four.

But not everything in this world is subject to change. You may have been told not to go to Washington on July 4th and expect to find a hotel room. This is as valid this year as it has always been. You cannot mess with history. Fourth of July is the only Independence Day the Americans have and who can blame them for having a big bash in the capital. If you want to see it, get a hotel room in Baltimore or Chicago and watch it on TV.

A centuries-old phenomenon called "Delhi belly" has definitely not become history but might go down in history as a single affliction that few foreign visitors to the Indian capital can escape. For your information no cure has been found yet.

A timeless piece of advice for the visitors to the Far East. If you want to learn how to use chopsticks don't order a noodle dish, as I did in Hong Kong, subsequently much to my embarrassment. Also, if you are really hungry politely decline the offer of ivory or silver chop sticks. Settle instead for a pair of wooden sticks and you might make some progress.

An up-to-date tip for travellers to South America. Don't go to Brazil if

you have not learnt — the lambada — the latest in Latin American rhythms. To help you master the step get yourself a dental-floss bikini.

One word about the weather. Don't go to Wimbledon in a raincoat or you might have a sunstroke if last year's British tennis season is anything to go by. Don't go to Kenya in April in shorts and T-shirt, loaded with sun-tan lotion. You may get a cool welcome at the Nairobi airport. 2,000 metres above the sea level, where the mercury is struggling to reach 10° C.

Don't go to Copacabana in Rio this or any other summer, and certainly not in your dental-floss bikini lest you catch pneumonia. Remember it's winter there now. The only reasonably warm place in that part of the world would be the Santos beach off Sao Paulo. And no matter what time of the year it is always take an overcoat to Moscow.

I don't know how it is in the Kremlin but in the White House some guests are in the habit of pocketing odds and ends with a White House monogram on them. The staff know it and they always have an extra amount of napkins, teaspoons and saucers casually lying around. If you are embarrassed to slip a "souvenir" in your pocket or purse just watch some foreign diplomats and you will soon get over your shyness. The same applies to photograph taking which at White House receptions, at least when I was there, was forbidden. In this, too, follow the lead from foreign diplomats. They are supposed to know the etiquette.

If by any chance when you are hiking in the foothills of the Himalayas you venture into a field of those fragrant and head-spinning plants

some Europeans and Americans grow at home in pots, don't pluck them for this is their natural habitat. Just take a deep breath and enjoy.

If you are in Colombo, Sri Lanka, do not hesitate to smile at the people in the street, for it is virtually rude not to. Try and smile at people in a street in one of the Gulf states and you will be surprised how far a smile can take you — in an unwanted direction.

Don't be offended if a child in a Japanese village peers at you curiously and asks its mother: "What's wrong with that woman's nose?"

Don't believe the men who tell you that they will visit Bangkok to see the temples. If you are a foreign woman in Bangkok's Pet Pong street and a stranger offers you a monkey, be sure he did not mean you should take it as a household pet.

Many countries stricken by crime or some other disaster are trying to turn the misfortune to their advantage, and foreign tourists are helping them. For example the Peking-based Gung-Ho travel agency is organising special tours of the Tiananmen Square after foreign tourists clamoured to see the bloodstains on the sidewalks follow-

ing last year's massacre in which the People's Army crushed the pro-democracy movement.

In Bombay, the Mumbai Tours is having a special offer for a Bombay-Pune first-hand experience of what the monsoon rains can do to a road. Expect a bumpy ride. One-day trips to the Amazon rain forests to watch their destruction are on offer in Brazil.

Colombian drug barons, eager to improve their image and always an enterprising lot, have linked up with Coco Tours agency to organise package tours of their vast estates. The highlight of the tour is a visit to the Medellin home of Fabio Ochoa Restrepo, 65, whose claim to fame is that he produced three drug lords, a book on horses and a letter to the Pope. If he takes a liking to you he might present you with an autographed copy of his book. These are new trends in Third World countries which may be imitating the United States. Although they are not widely publicised, guided tours of Harlem, New York's crime nest, can be arranged. I was on one a few years ago, in fact I spent a whole day in Harlem, and nobody harmed a hair of my head.

Speaking of crime is another timeless piece of advice valid in Colombo, New York, Rio de Janeiro, London, Paris, Nairobi and virtually any other city in the world.

If you are assaulted by thieves do not try any histrionics, just hand over whatever they ask for and hope for the best. For although the world is changing this particular feature of human behaviour, robbery and assault, is universal and is not likely to be eradicated any time soon.

Bon Voyage and enjoy your holiday!

If in India, beware as no cure has been found for "Delhi belly" yet! And going to Latin America, step into a dental-floss bikini and master the lambada.

Flying jitters

TWENTY-five million Americans are afraid to fly — one in six of the adult population. Some are not only fearful, but phobic. One difference between a fear and a phobia is in the intensity; a phobia is a disproportionate fear, an exaggerated or irrational feeling, beyond mere anxiety or discomfort. Phobic air travellers see themselves losing control, suffocating, panicking, falling, crashing or (at the very least) making a fool of themselves.

For both the phobic flier and the merely fearful there are three ways of confronting the ghost. The first is education, or enlightenment. The second is relaxation; and thirdly, there are some techniques and tips that can work well for everyone.

Education

"Nothing is to be feared. It is only to be understood." Understand, then, that every year throughout the world more than 11,000 aircraft carry nearly 1,000 million people from 1,000 airports without incident or accident. According to Lloyd's of London it is 25 times safer to travel by air than by car.

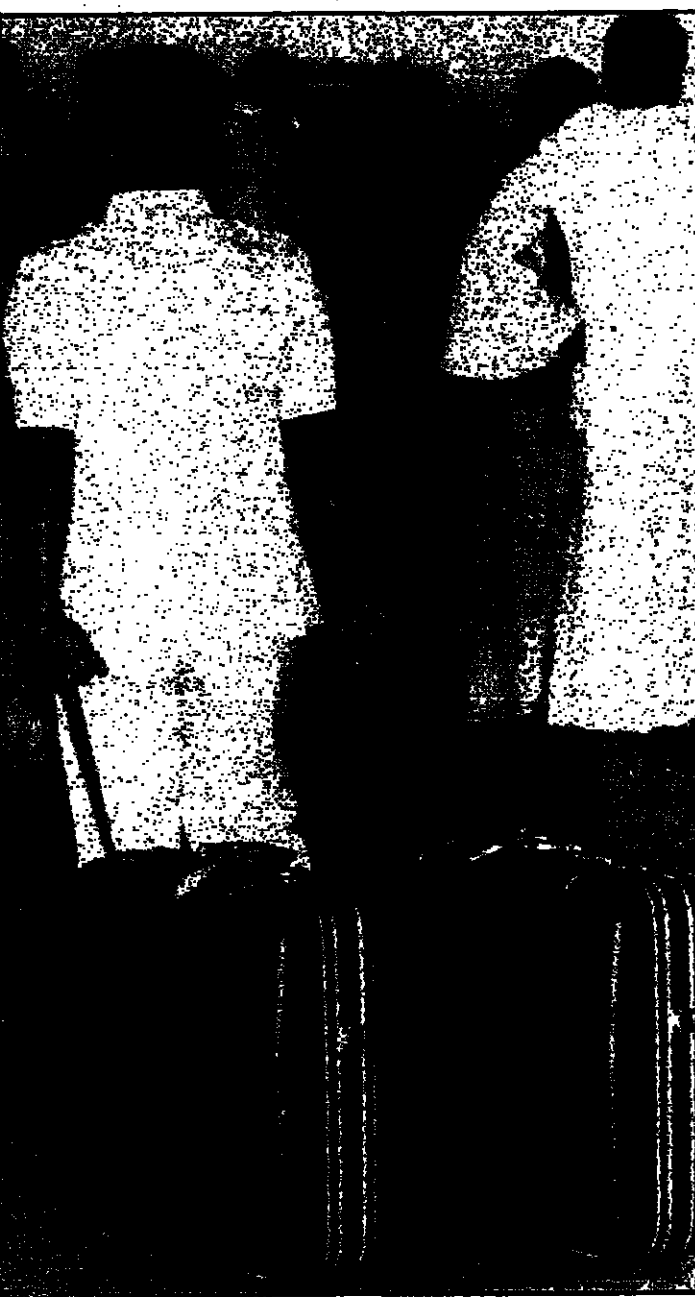
Relaxation

A completely relaxed passenger cannot be fearful. Fear and relaxation are opposite states. Tension and fear adversely affect every muscle, organ, gland, nerve and cell in the body. Relaxation shifts the body motor to idle and all the components throttle back. Learning a simple breathing relaxation procedure helps to curb overwhelming anxiety. It also enables fearful travellers to prepare for comfortable flights.

At home, find a quiet place and settle into a comfortable chair with an arm and head rest. People who are frightened of flying try not to put their full weight down, but for the purposes of this exercise it is essential to do this, with feet uncrossed flat on the floor or supported on some kind of stool. Wriggle as far back into the seat as possible. Make sure jaw muscles are loose, teeth are not touching and lips are slightly parted. Nudge intruding thoughts aside.

Begin the first of three deep breaths by inhaling through the nose, mouth, or both. Inhale fully and hold that inhalation while silently counting to three. Then exhale completely, saying aloud, "Relax, let go." Breathe normally for a few moments and luxuriate in a refreshing feeling of passivity. Take the second deep breath, repeating the same procedure, but inhaling and exhaling more fully. Relax and let go even more. Then breathe normally.

On the third and final inhalation-exhalation, consider increasing the volume of air by



Overcome them

consciously extending the diaphragm. On exhaling, contract the diaphragm muscles so that more air is expelled. Exhale tension, stress and fear. Let go.

Practise the exercise several times before going on to desensitize past feelings about flying. If muscular tension persists, try counting from ten to one and slow letting go of that tension. Think of a pleasant, peaceful place and fantasize being there, unworried and unafraid.

To learn to be comfortable when flying it is essential to confront fear. Relax with the breathing exercises and review a previous frightening experience or an anticipated one as rationally as possible. Stop any time fear begins to reassert itself. The next day it will be possible to recall the experience with less emotional involvement. From a relaxed position, keep examining your feelings about flying until familiarity dispels fear.

Once past fears have been confronted, conditioning and programming for a future flight can begin. Go to a deep level of relaxation with the breathing exercise and select some city or area that has a strong appeal for you. Maybe there is someone you would particularly like to visit there. Recall all previous happy, warm thoughts about being there and imagine enjoying the place and the people.

The next conditioning step is to envisage boarding the plane to make the trip and experiencing a mixture of excitement and fear; it will be difficult to differentiate between them. Choose excitement! Remember it is quite normal to be nervous.

Imagine that someone dear to you, who knows you well, is on board. The seat belt sign comes on and the flight becomes slightly choppy. Pretend that the plane is travelling over a cobbled road in the sky. Any feeling of being distraught or overly disturbed, experienced on past flights, will be reduced. It is quite normal to feel uncomfortable, but not unsafe.

Tips

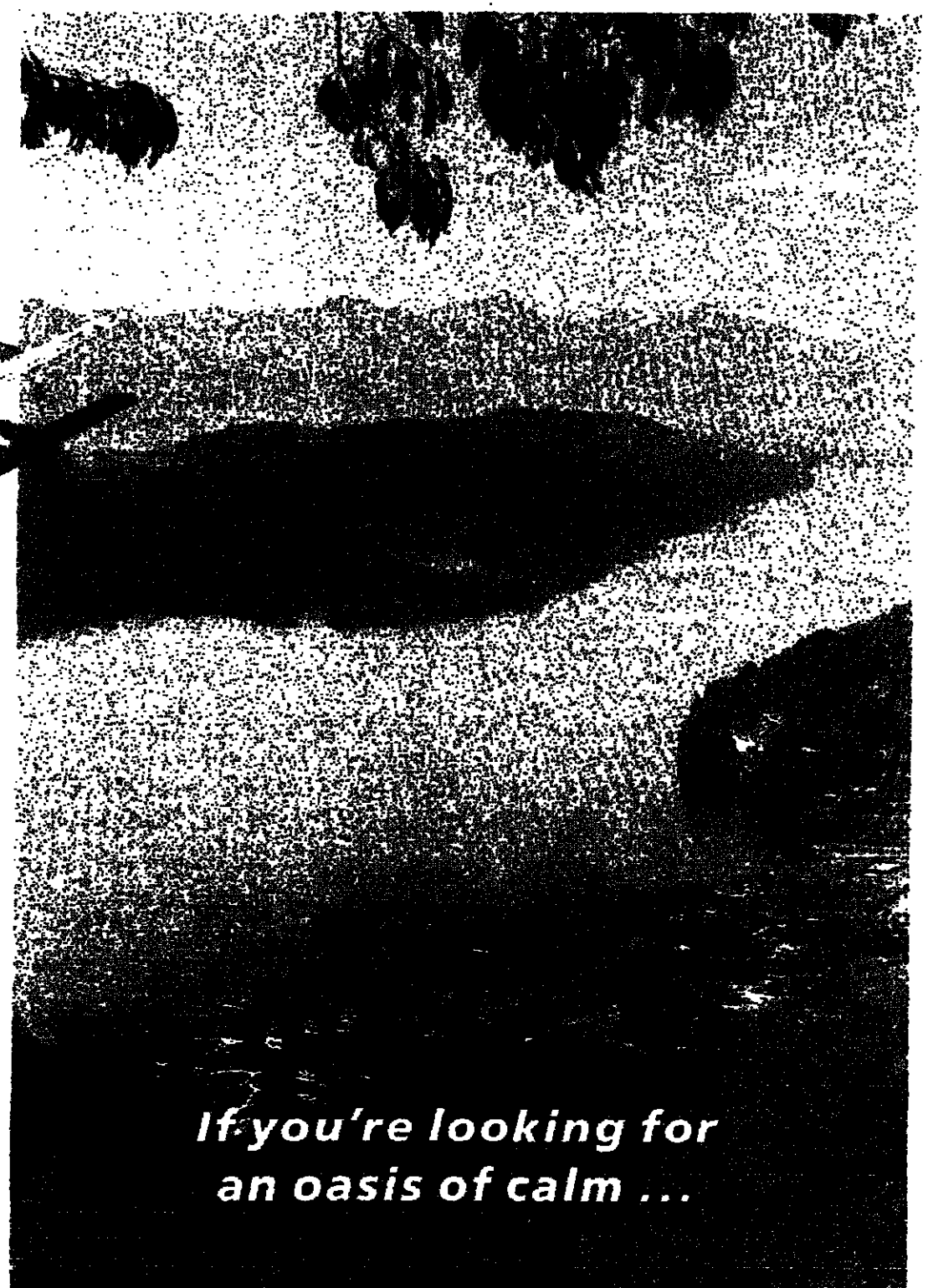
Visit airports. Observe the different makes of aircraft. Park on the perimeter and watch the planes take off and land. Find out what kind you will be travelling on and learn to recognize it. All are safe.

Some people prefer morning flights so they can get up and go without spending the whole day uneasily. Allow a minimum of one hour for parking, buying a ticket or checking in, and security screening. Rushing exaggerates anxiety. Buy a magazine as a distraction.

On stepping aboard, tell the flight attendant that you are fearful, uncomfortable or terrified of flying and that you would like to take a peek into the flight deck. Generally, anyone who makes this request is welcomed by a relaxed crew.

After settling into the seat, do the deep breathing exercises. This singular procedure has worked effectively even for the most sceptical. Do it with your eyes closed. Turn inward for the strength that is waiting to be tapped. Some vestige of anxiety and fear is bound to remain but the important thing is that the previously fearful flier will find that his or her perception of flying has been updated.

In the air, listen for the sound of the landing-gears retracting; then the no-smoking sign will be turned off, the engine power will decrease, and the flaps will be retracted, usually in that order. As soon as possible stand up and stretch. Move about the cabin. Experience the triumph: you have conquered the fear of flying.



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Basel

COSMOPOLITAN by tradition, Basel is situated at the meeting point of many cultures. Over the centuries, the way of life of the city has been shaped by the Celts and the Romans, the Alemanni, the Humanists and the Huguenots. Basel, with the oldest university — and a famous one at that — has become a centre of trade and banking, as well as of the chemical industry. The prestige of this city, both past and present, is reflected in the architectural splendour of the well-preserved old town, in the magnificent collections housed in the many museums and in a rich and varied cultural life. The Swiss Industries Fair and the European World Trade and Convention Centre, etc., make Basel the country's foremost fair venue hosting an ever-increasing number of congresses, exhibitions and conventions.

How to get there
Daily flights to Basel-Mulhouse airport (10 minutes from the city centre), from/to various international destinations as well as from Zurich and Geneva.
By rail: Served by the French, West German and Swiss railways.
By road: Major intersection of the French, West German and Swiss road networks.
By boat: Basel is the port of destination for international Rhine shipping.

Leisure activities — sight-seeing
Guided tours of the world famous Museum of Fine Arts (Kunstmuseum) and of 30 other museums. A modern zoo. A charming old town dating back to the Middle Ages. Theatres; a rich musical life; night clubs.

Grindelwald

Situated at 1050 metres with breathtaking Alpine views on every side: in Grindelwald, the glaciers of Eiger, Monch and Jungfrau seem near enough to touch. And the mountain railways beat all records: the Jungfrau-joch has the highest railway station in the Alps; the First and Mannlichen chair lifts and cable cars are the longest in Europe; the Schilthorn boasts the world's highest revolving restaurant (and served as the setting for a James Bond film). Mountain walks and ski runs offer magnificent panoramas. The local inhabitants take pride in their role as hosts to a multitude of congress participants from abroad.

How to get there

By air: Zurich airport 170 km., Geneva 247 km.
By rail: By international express train to Interlaken and then with the Bernese-Oberland Railway to Grindelwald (40 minutes).
By road: Highway to Spiez, and then on good roads to Grindelwald (Bern 78 km, Zurich 155 km).

Leisure activities — sight-seeing

Summer and winter sports of every kind. Excursions to glaciers, gorges, Staubbach waterfall, Alpine gardens, mountain cheesemakers, museums and wildlife expeditions.



Lugano

A southern lakeside paradise enjoying a mild climate, with plenty of sun, even in winter. Lugano is set amidst exotic vegetation and surrounded by magnificent mountain views. A city full of light and life, criss-crossed with romantic, traffic-free lanes — in short: a congress venue with Mediterranean charm. Its churches and cathedral are of great historic interest and there are concerts, shows, and folklore displays aplenty.

How to get there

By air: Lugano-Agno airport (6 km from the centre), direct flights to

Paris, Nice, Venice and Luxembourg. Connecting flights to and from all destinations via Geneva, Zurich and Basel.
By rail: Connected to the main north-south route.
By road: Express highway from Zurich 225 km from Basel.

Leisure activities — sight-seeing

Ticinese folklore, dances, shows and concerts. Excursions to the beautiful northern Italian lakes or to the delightful Ticinese countryside by boat, bus and cable car.

St Gallen

A city of culture and textiles set in lush green surroundings: in the early Middle Ages St Gallen was the most important cultural centre north of the Alps. Evidence may still be seen in the world famous Abbey Library with its collection of rare manuscripts. St Gallen became the stronghold of the textile industry in the 19th century. Still today, the avant garde fabrics and exquisite embroideries of designers of world renown come from St Gallen which, incidentally, is also the home of Switzerland's famous Graduate School of Economics, Business and Public

Administration. Sources of pleasure for the congress visitor are the picturesque old town, the Lake of Constance not far away and the charming villages in the nearby region of Appenzell.

How to get there

By air: Zurich airport 82 km, direct rail and road links.
By rail: Fast direct trains from Zurich (1 hour), Bern (3 hours), Geneva (5 hours), Munich (4 hours), Vienna (9.5 hours).
By road: Highway to Zurich 90 km, Chur 94 km.

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Bangladesh

Splendid ruins, spectacular sights

Dacca: Founded in 1608 as the seat of the Imperial Mughal Viceroy of Bengal and known the world over for centuries for its fine silk and muslin, Dacca has now grown into a bustling active city of over 1.5 million people and serves as the capital of Bangladesh.

Some of its outstanding ancient monuments are Lalbagh Fort (built in 1678 A.D.), Paribibi's tomb (1678 A.D.), Bara Katra, Hussaini Dalan, Star Mosque, Satgambuz (seven domed) Mosque (1680 A.D.) and Dhakeshwari Temple. The central Shaheed Minar commemorating the martyrs of the historic language movement of 1952, the Bahadur Shah Park guarding the memorial for the heroes of the first war of independence of 1857, the Dacca Museum housing an excellent collection of archaeological finds, sculptures and paintings and the Balha Gardens rank high among places of interest. Architectural trends, both old and new, are reflected in Curzon Hall, old High Court and new Supreme Court buildings, Gano Bhavan and Banga Bhavan, multi-storied Parliament House under construction in Sher-e-Bangla Nagar, Shaheed Shuhrawardy Hospital, Central Public Library, Baitul Mukarram Mosque designed after the Holy Ka'aba of Mecca, the Railway Station, Bangladesh Bank Building, the College of Arts and Crafts, Bangladesh Secretariat complex and Hotel Intercontinental.

The neighbourhood of Dacca also claims attention for its rich heritage. The ruins of the old seats of power at Vikrampur (7th century AD) and Sonargaon (10th century AD), only an hour's drive away, are worth visiting. A day-trip to suburban Savar (National War Memorial), the forests of Joydevpur, Chandra or Salna and the industrial estates at Narayanganj, Demra, Tong and Tejgaon is a rewarding experience. A cruise in a country boat in one of the nearby rivers is likely to bring peace and joy to your mind. Shopping around can get you excellent bargains. And who can miss the pink pearls of Dacca.

Comilla: Linked with Dacca by air, road, rail and river, Comilla is just five miles off Mainamati and sixty miles from the capital. It lies on the main highways leading to Chittagong and Sylhet. The place is known for its exquisite pottery, handloom products and a large number of 'dighis' a local name for fish bearing tanks. The Academy for Rural Development here is known for its pioneering work in co-operative movement.

The Parjatan Corporation can organise conducted tours from Dacca to Comilla. There are number of departmental rest houses and picnic spots to attract the tourist.

Chittagong: With a picturesque hinterland of large hill-forests and lakes Chittagong, the second largest city of Bangladesh and a busy international seaport, is a good vacation spot. Its fine harbour, green hills, forests and sea-beaches and soothing sunshine attract holiday makers to swim in the blue waters of the Bay of Bengal, bask in the sun, fish in the lakes and rivers and shoot with camera in the game-filled forests. Described by the Chinese poet-traveller Hiuan Tsang (7th Century AD) as "a sleeping beauty emerging from mist and water" and given the nick-name of Porto Grande (Grand Port) by the 16th century Portuguese seafarers, Chittagong remains true to both descriptions even today. It combines



Lal Bagh Fort, 1608, in Dhaka.

the humming of a restless seaport with the pleasure of a hill-town.

Chittagong is the most developed area in Bangladesh with many of the heavy, medium and light industries located there. These include jute, cotton, textile, automobile, fertilizer, engineering, chemical, tobacco, timber and tannery industries. The country's only steel mill and oil refinery are also located here.

Chittagong is connected with Dacca by rail, road, air and water. It is also connected with Cox's Bazar Jessore and Calcutta by air.

Places of interest in and around Chittagong include the Court Building, the Ethnological Museum, Shahi Jame Mosque, Chandanpura Mosque, the University town, Engineering and Medical colleges, Chittagong Club, Pahartali Lake, Marine Academy at Jaldia, Patenga and Fauzderhat beaches, Sitakunda Hindu and Buddhist temples, shrines of a dozen Muslim saints including Hazrat Byazid Bostami. The building housing the present Islamic Intermediate College was built about 300 years ago by the Portuguese to serve as their arsenal.

Cox's Bazar: Ninety-five miles from Chittagong by road and twenty minutes by air is Cox's Bazar — beach combers paradise — having the world's longest (75 miles) stretch of beach sloping gently into the blue waters of the Bay of Bengal. A chain of green hills covered by deep reserve forests, serve as a picturesque background to the beach. The range of hills runs parallel to the beach for about 60 miles. At low tide a jeep can drive on the sand for quite a distance. The wide beach is endowed with silvery-golden sand. The sea is good for bathing and swimming as it is free from sharks.

Cox's Bazar and nearby Ramu have many Pagodas and Buddhist temples. The friendly Mogh tribesmen make in their homes a local variety of cigars and colourful handloom fabrics. Their unique customs and costumes are distinctive and attract tourists. A trip by road at dawn to Teknaf, the southernmost tip of Bangladesh, is worth-remembering.

Accommodation, rent-a-car, food and bar facilities are available at reasonable rates in modern rest-houses, motels and restaurants especially built for the tourists by the Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation. Local sight-seeing tours and excursion trips are also arranged by the Banglad Parjatan Corporation in its microbuses.

Chalna: Chalna, now being developed as the country's

second seaport, stands at the upper tip of the Sunderbans and attracts many visitors, with safe channels deep enough to take big ships. It handles a large volume of the country's jute exports and food imports.

The small township of Chalna is humming with activity these days because of the continuous inflow and outflow of ships and port development work. It serves as an excellent base for journey into the Sunderbans.

The place is well connected with Khulna by telecommunication and river transport.

Sunderbans: Spread over an area of 2,316 square miles of deltaic swamp along the coastal belt of Khulna district, the Sunderbans are the home of the royal Bengal tiger. Its dense evergreen rain forests are criss-crossed by a network of rivers and creeks. One finds here tides flowing in two directions in the same creek and often tigers swimming across rivers and huge crocodiles basking in the sun. The Sunderbans are a must for game lovers and anglers. Tigers spotted deer, monkeys, pythons, crocodiles, fishes and tropical birds abound here. These forests are accessible by river from Chalna and Khulna and there are rest houses for the visitors to stay and enjoy unparalleled nature with all its charm and majesty. Spending some days and nights deep inside the forests can be a rare treat for lover of nature. The mid-forest tourist lodge at Nilkamol, now under construction is an ideal wilderness dream-spot.

The Sunderbans are also a busy place for the wood-cutters. They yield a sizeable quantity of timber, fire-wood and reeds for the country. Gewa wood from these forests is used for making pulp for the newsprint mill in Khulna. Honey is also produced here.

Kaptai: A pleasant and picturesque drive of 40 miles from Chittagong through lush-green countryside brings you to a huge expanse of emerald-blue water ringed with green tropical forests. This is the famous Kaptai Lake, man-made and spread over an area of 265 sq. miles of water formed by damming the Karanpuli river for a hydro-electric plant to generate 80,000 kilowatts of power for the national grid. Once a happy hunting ground for wild animals, Kaptai is now a quiet modern township served by good roads and modern amenities of life. There are telephones, banks, good transport and air-conditioned rest houses which provide good food. For the tourists, the attractions of Kaptai are numerous and varied — wildlife,

fishing, speedboat cruising, water-skiing, rowing, climbing, hiking or merely lazing in the dappled shade to watch the tribal girls. A boat trip to the various forest islands and lake channels is a rewarding experience. The Hill Tracts are inhabited by a number of distinctive enterprising tribes such as the Chakmas, the Moghs, the Tripuras, the Kukis, the Murangs and the Tenghangyas. They are friendly and hospitable and are well-known for their love of colourful dresses, dancing and music.

Bangladesh Parjatan Corporation has tourist accommodation at Kaptai with rent-a-car, rent-a-boat and bar facilities for holiday-makers. Local sight-seeing tours are also arranged in microbuses.

Rangamati: This picturesque town of the Chittagong Hill Tracts district, known for its rare scenic beauty and unspoiled tribal life, is just 48 miles from Chittagong by road. It is perched on the bank of the Kaptai lake making it accessible by water as well. Tourists can stay at the Circuit House and look for exciting bargains in various handicrafts of the tribal people who traditionally live in bamboo huts in thick forests as neighbours of wild animals. Rangamati has become a favourite holiday resort.



Lake cruising at Rangamati.

Biman's winter schedule

BIMAN, Bangladesh Airlines, is all set to resume its suspended operation to Japan next winter with expanded two flights a week, instead of one flight earlier.

The long-awaited resumption of flight became a possibility

with the signing of a "Memorandum of Understanding (MOU)" at Biman head office on April 12, at the end of three days of negotiations between Bangladesh and Japan.

Under the MOU, Biman, will be able to operate twice weekly flights to Japan — one to Tokyo and the other to up and coming important centre, Nagoya.

Biman, after operating once a week Boeing 707 flight to Tokyo for about a year in 1981, suspended it mainly due to poor economic returns. But Biman is now

hopeful about its success primarily because of dramatic changes in the Japanese travel market, stemming from the growing strength of yen and highly intensified inclination of the Japanese nationals to travel abroad.

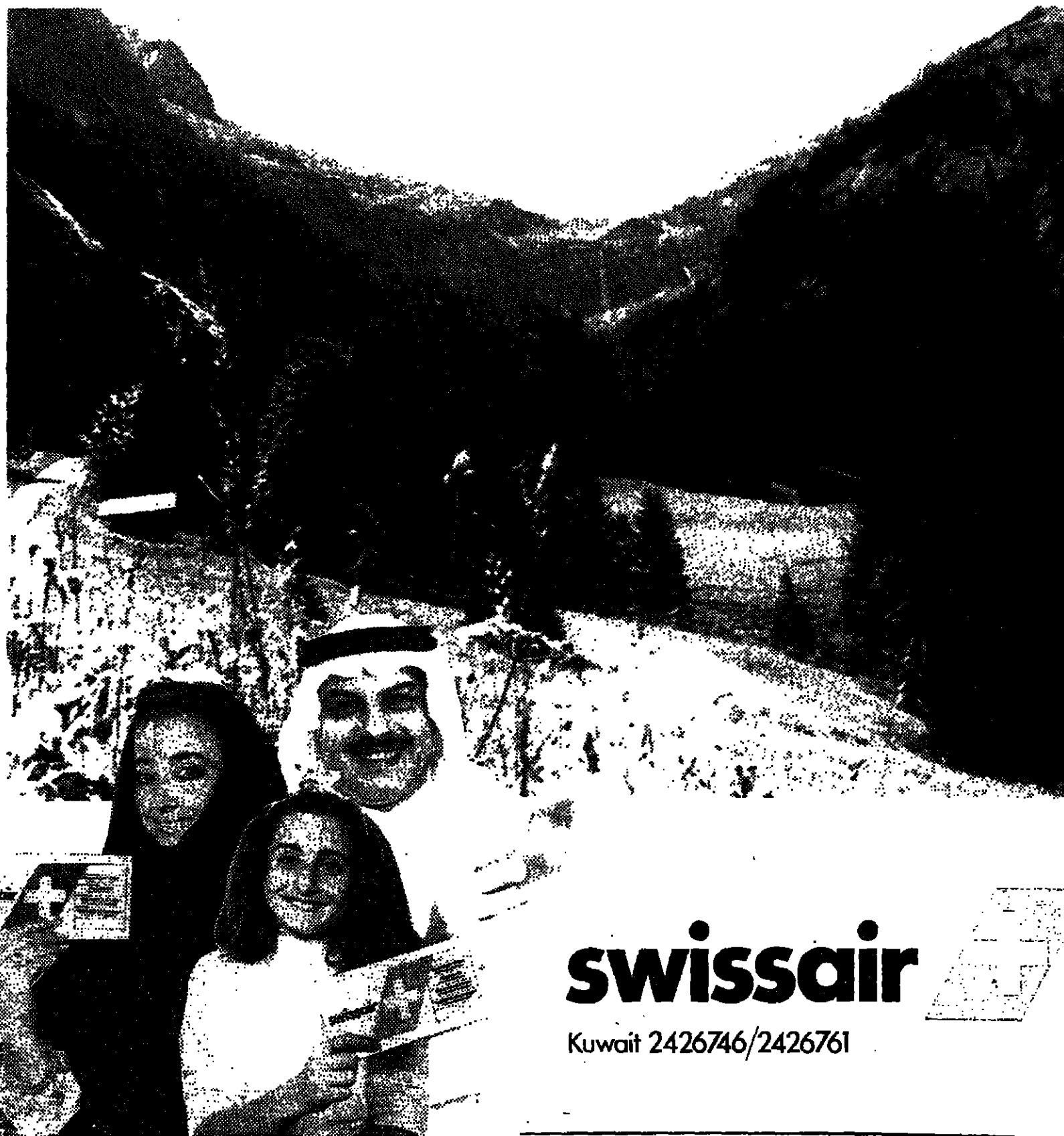
The MOU provided Biman expansion of frequency from one flight a week to two flights and also allowed the airline to operate wide-bodied DC 10-30 aircraft with much higher capacity as well as fifth freedom traffic right. Biman will now be

able to carry passenger and cargo between intermediate destinations like Bangkok or Singapore and Japan.

The MOU was signed by M.C. Kibria, joint secretary, Ministry of Civil Aviation and Tourism and Takemi Shishijuka, senior negotiator, International Aviation Division of Japanese Ministry of Transport, on behalf of their respective governments. The MOU has also allowed an of the Japanese airlines to operate twice weekly services to Dhaka and Chittagong.

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Austria

Friendly city

Close look at charming Salzburg

By Gerhard F. Markus

WHEN I was talking to a friend of mine not long ago, the conversation turned to Salzburg, and she said, "If I was told I had to go to one place in the world and stay there forever, Salzburg would be at the top of my list."

The charm this perfect gem of a city radiates so richly elicits enthusiastic reactions from most visitors. Another very well-travelled lady put it like this, "To me, just being there is important. The pace of the city makes tensions fall away, fills me with a sense of peace."

Salzburg is Europe in pure, concentrated form. Whatever makes a European city special, Salzburg has it — a winding river, a cathedral, sharply rising hills, palaces, fine restaurants, a spectacular mountain backdrop, a large fortified castle, open squares, museums, elegant hotels, narrow lanes, formal gardens, abbeys, great shops, bridges — all within easy walking distance.

It is this compactness that gives the city its intimacy; the short distances impart a sense of familiarity. Salzburg has great visual appeal that comes directly from the proximity of the magnificent structures, from their perceptual density. Quite literally, as even a brief glimpse from *Makartsteg*, *Kapuzinerberg* or the terrace on *Monchsberg* will demonstrate, Salzburg is "as pretty as a picture."

This is a city you have to get to know on foot in order to be properly introduced. Narrow medieval lanes, the many little passages from one street through a courtyard to another, steps up the hill, all these nooks and crannies cannot be negotiated by any vehicle, not even a horse-drawn carriage. Don't be afraid of retracing your steps, of going the same way again — there are always new details, new angles, new surprises you will notice for the first time.

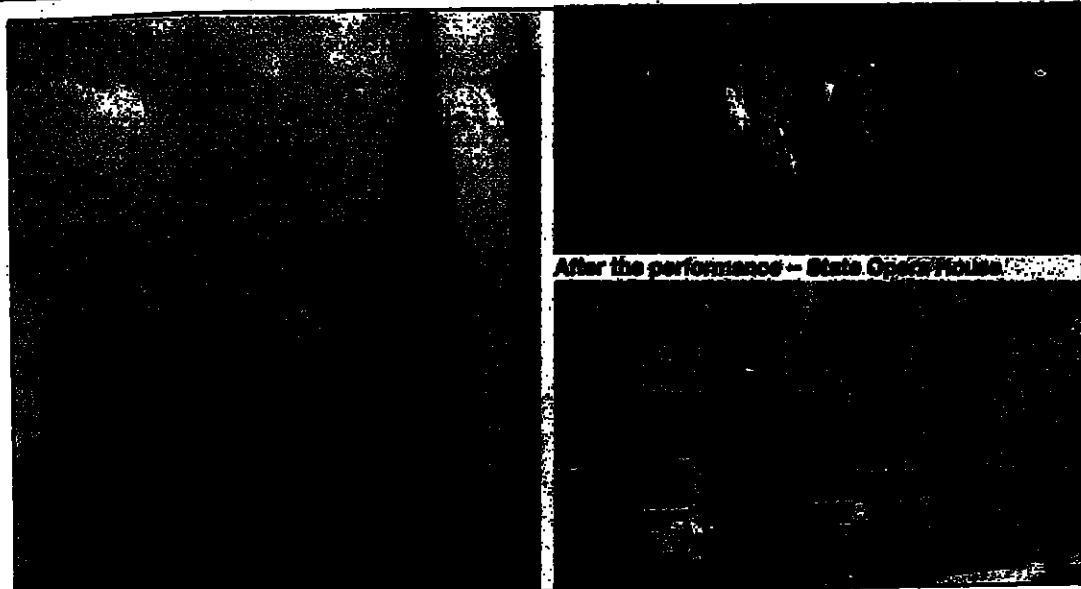
The medieval closeness of the patrician town is protective, friendly, secure. By contrast, the grandiose design and the splendour of the archbishops' city are uplifting, inspiring, an impressive demonstration of power both spiritual and worldly.

Around 1600, Prince Archbishop Wolf Dietrich von Raitenau condemned some church property and bought the houses of an entire quarter, had everything razed and began to have his idea of a mighty cathedral and a properly princely residence turned into reality. The concept of a city like this grew from making stone speak of the glory of God and His governors on Earth, the archbishops. The wealth to make it happen came out of the salt mines. The combination was fortuitous, the time was right, and we are sharing in the beauty thus created.

Salzburg is a city of music, not only during festival time but all year round. Earnest young men and women practice hard and perform with verve at the *Mozarteum*. The sounds of a choir, an organist, a chamber group rehearsing wait from churches and schools on spring and summer days when windows are open. Folklore with the music of the country people entertains visitors and citizens alike. On some evenings you just know that Mozart is going to come around the next corner as you stroll along through the quiet streets.

Salzburg takes on a new character, touches a different set of chords in the weeks before Christmas. Old Advent songs from the nearby mountain country are performed and raise the spirit of the season in everyone. There is nothing more beautiful, more peaceful, than the city, with all the stalls of the Christmas Market set up in the square in front of the cathedral, their warm lights cutting through the early dusk, the smells of gingerbread and hot wine, a forest of Christmas trees on *Residenzplatz*, the bells of a church pealing and snow falling gently on this whole scene.

Salzburg's romance is genuine. From the way the city presents itself, you know the fountains are illuminated for lovers, not for tourists. All those who assist the traveller with his or her daily needs and pleasures do it in a manner that draws the guest in, making everyone feel truly welcome, more like a relative who has come to visit than a stranger. One caution: Salzburg is habit-forming.



St. Stephen's Cathedral as painted by Rudolf von Alt in 1834; a lane in the Old Quarter

Vienna

City of dreams

By Shelby Hodge

VIENNA glides gracefully into the heart in three-quarter time, quickly capturing the imagination with her eloquent physical presence, encircling the spirit in an aura of gentle nostalgia, rhythmically seducing the visitor with a centuries-old charm that remains as alluring today as during the glittering period of *Vienna gloriosa*.

It is a city unlike any other. Situated at the confluence of the Central European mountain massif and the Eastern European plain, Vienna enjoys a unique blending of cultures that results in a distinctive middle European character. Hand in hand with that special ambience are the refined tastes, graceful style and artistic accomplishments that adorn her past and present, insuring an unmatched sophistication.

Thus, Vienna stands proudly as the *grande dame* of the Continent. Having served as capital of the glittering Habsburg Empire for 600 years, the city could be nothing less than the belle of the European ball. Through the centuries, Vienna has remained true to her past as the Imperial capital. She has neither grown too large nor declined to something less than what she might have been. In short, Vienna remains Vienna — truly a city of dreams, the capital of an entity and of an idea. It is a city blessed with a legacy of cultural brilliance, architectural splendor and the luxury of leisured living. Dressed in a flowing gown of

Gothic and Baroque design, the city is at once outlandishly formal and invitingly comfortable. Witness the ornate facade of the wedding cake-Gothic Votive Church and compare its elaborate architecture to the sweet simplicity of the city's small squares and narrow mazes. Likewise, the traditional "click of the heels" and "kiss on the hand" are continued politesse between ladies and gentlemen. The ultimate in Viennese formality is experienced during the elegant Opera Ball and New Year's Eve festivities. Conversely, in the wine taverns of Grinzing, all is relaxed *Gemutlichkeit*. And the Viennese penchant for costume-like dirndls and loden wear contributes to a bit of pleasing provincialism.

Quite naturally, the visitor's love affair with Vienna — for who does not readily fall captive to the enchanting city — is played out against a backdrop of musical splendor. The city of Haydn, Beethoven, Mozart, Schubert, Brahms and Bruckner stands above all others in its rich heritage of musical achievement. A generous programme of concerts by the city's two great orchestras — the Vienna Philharmonic and the Vienna Symphony Orchestra — maintains the melodic tempo of the city's cultural life. Add the spirited three-quarter time of Johann Strauss' creation and the sweetly innocent voices of the Vienna Boys' Choir, and one comprehends the common concept that Viennese citizenry comprises an audiences of 1.5 million.

Year-round the city is alive with the sound of music — from the stages of the State Opera and the Volksoper in the winter season to the outdoor garden and palace concerts of spring and summer. Chamber music concerts in ornate palace salons, performances of waltz tunes in public parks and operettas in open plazas fill Vienna's summer nights with familiar strains. These melodies of the city become musical themes for the dream and the reality that is romantic Vienna.

Beneath the complex allure of art and architecture, music and social custom lie the more easily accessible pleasure of Vienna. A ride through the inner city in a *Flaker* provides both a step back in time and a leisurely perusal of contemporary Vienna. A jaunt on the famed ferris wheel in the Prater, the immense park once the private game preserve of Habsburg princes, presents a stunning panorama of the city. And an afternoon or an hour in one of the city's numerous coffee houses places one close to the heart of revered Viennese tradition.

In the coffee houses of Vienna, as in no other city's most honored institution, the visitor is offered a course of instruction in an enduring social art — a combination of perfecting relaxation and indulging in the good life. It is more than simply sipping a plain coffee. One must join the Viennese in consuming a rich coffee concoction and a calorie-laden pastry.

Innsbruck

By Claire Walter

SUMMER or winter, Innsbruck has everything Americans go to Europe for. This enchanting city set beside a swiftly flowing river amid the scenic splendour of the Tyrolean Alps, features a medieval old town, fascinating museums, wonderful shops, sparkling nightlife, and accommodations and eating places in all price ranges. Innsbruck — a city of culture and a city of sports — is a compact place which couples urban pleasures with outdoor ones.

The downtown is a wonderful mélange of several centuries worth of architecture that blend in charming harmony. The soaring mountains all around make skiing, hiking, climbing and simply gazing at the magnificent peaks and panoramas a rare and welcome counterpoint to city life. And to top it off, Innsbruck is convenient to visit. It is located at the crossroads of Europe at the intersection of key north-south and east-west railroad lines and highways.

This central location was responsible for Innsbruck's prominence as long ago as the 12th century, when it is known to have been an important market and trading outpost. Astonishingly, it is still possible to see the city much as it was in that era. By the next century, Innsbruck had grown into a walled town with a watchtower and belfry that remains a landmark today.

Visitors step through the centuries when they pass into this unique old town to stroll narrow cobbled streets where cars are prohibited. The lanes are narrow and the street-level arcades under many of the buildings, designed in a typical medieval style, are tinier still. Now and again the old city offers such surprises as the pink and white confection of a high-Rococo rowhouse whose elaborate ornamentation is a perfect counterpoint to the somber facades of the other buildings which look as they did in the Middle Ages. In the warm months, the lilliputian central square is ablaze with summer flowers. In December, it sparkles as the site of Innsbruck's charming Christmas market.

Just steps away, outside the ancient walls, are monuments from other centuries: an elegant Baroque palace here, a somber Gothic church there. A broad, avenue-rich with enticing shops in one direction, a riverfront quai lined with pastel-coloured houses in another. A museum of traditional Tyrolean arts and crafts on one side of the old city, a modern university on another. Looming above them all, seemingly close enough to touch, is the *Nordkette*, a steep Alpine head-wall. It is the closest and most dramatic of the mountains that surround the city, a silent yet constant reminder of the geography which has given the Tyrol its character and strength.

A Flaker blends into Vienna's traffic.

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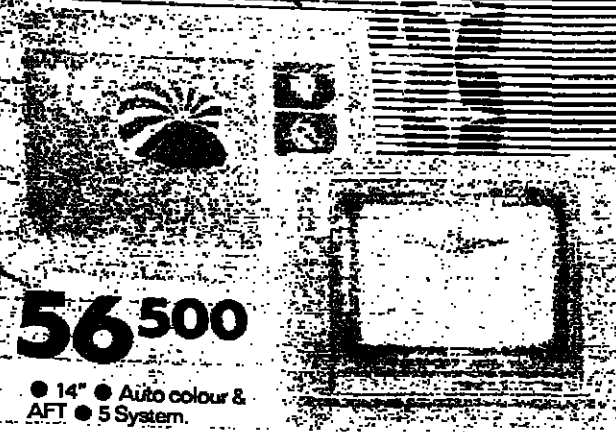
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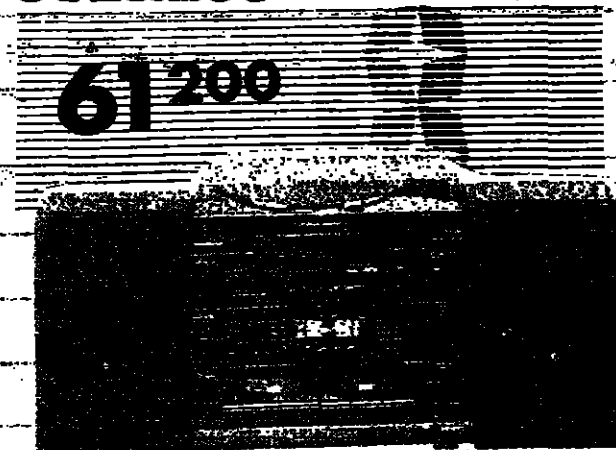


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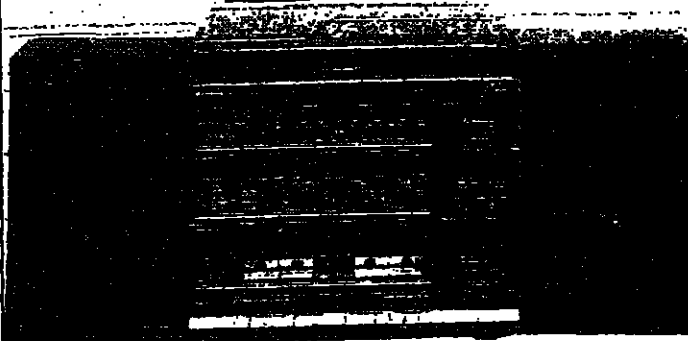
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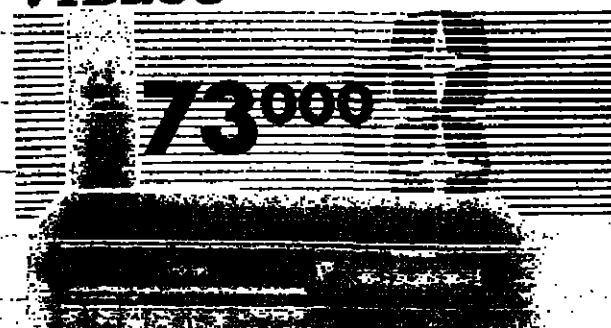
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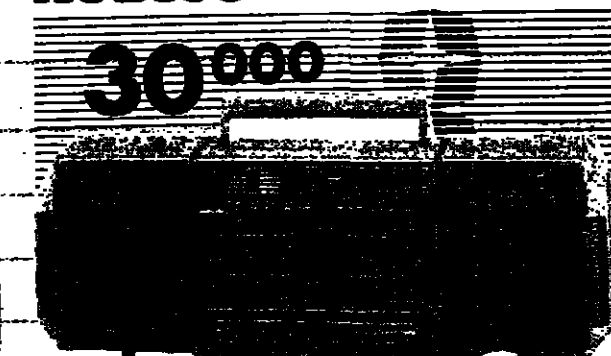


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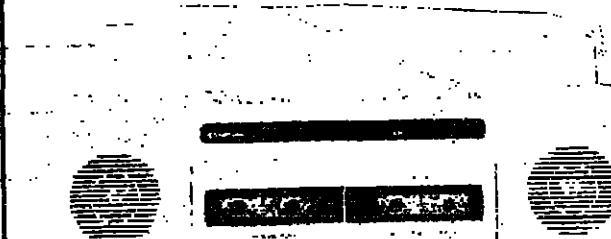
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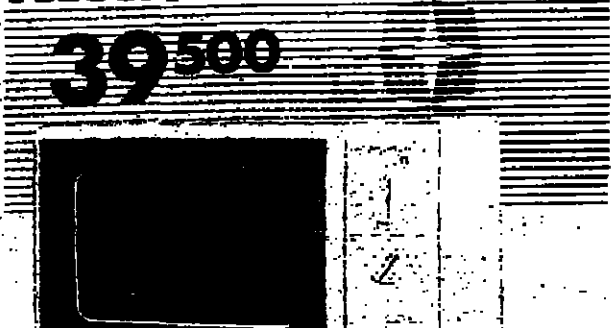


W-260

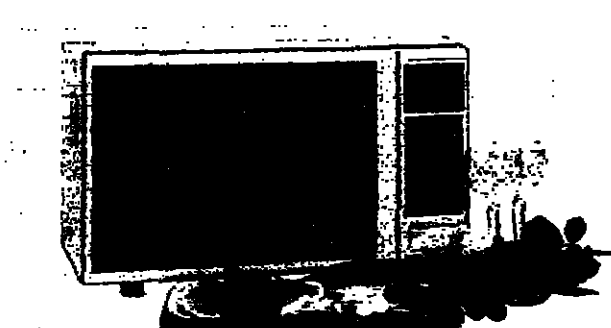
13900

3 band graphic equalizer ● One touch recording ● PMPO 15 watt

MICROWAVES



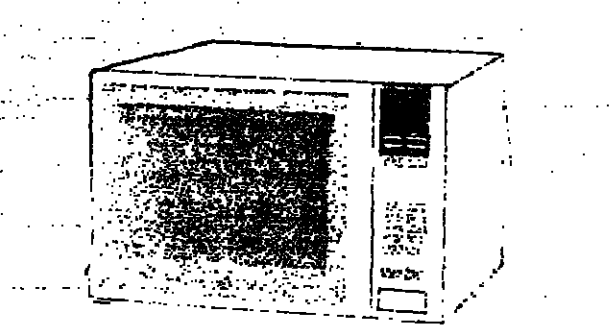
RE-570 D 1.1 cu.ft.



RE-630 T

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0.9 cu.ft.

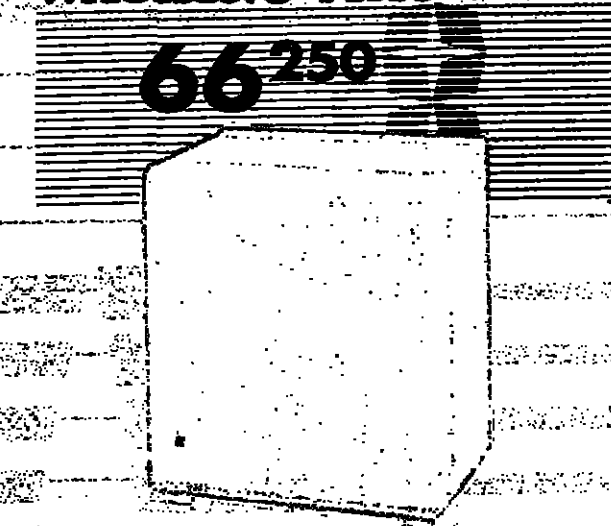


RE-990 CT

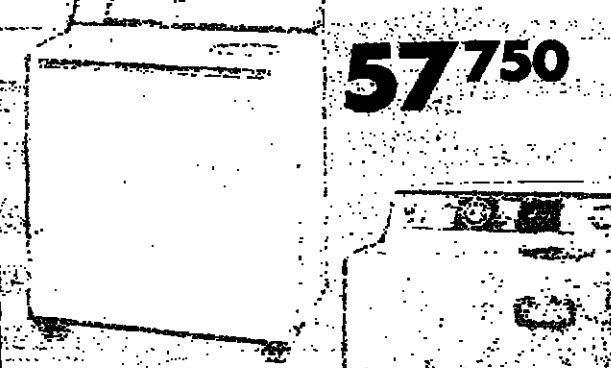
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0.99 cu.ft.

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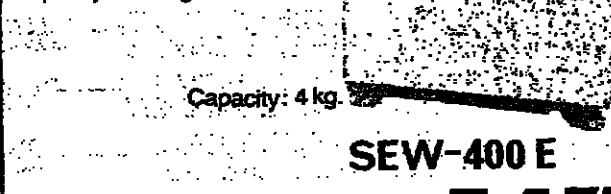


SEW-650 Capacity 6.5 kg.



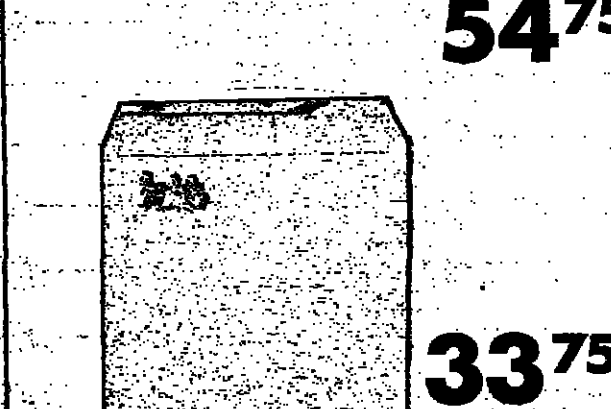
SEW WOD P

Capacity 4 kg.



SEW-400 E

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SEW-256 Capacity 2.5 kg.

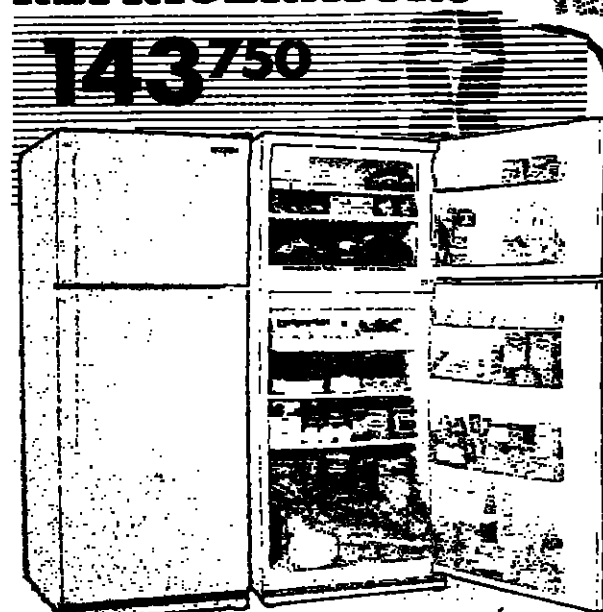
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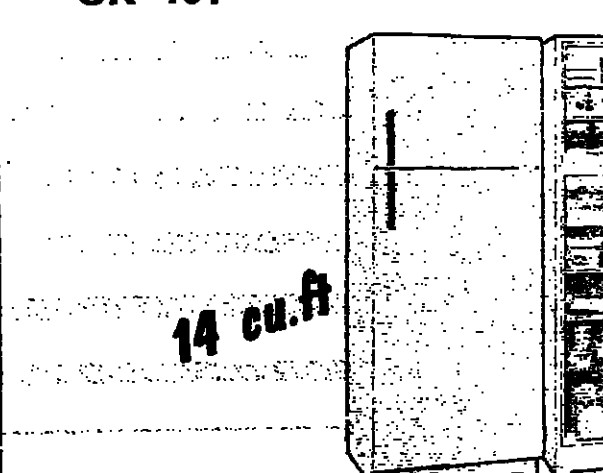
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REFRIGERATORS



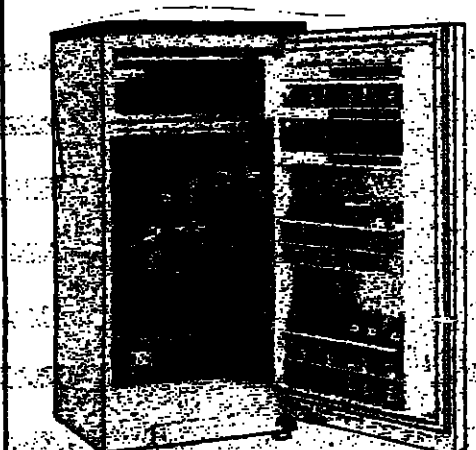
SR-461

16 cu.ft



SR-368

121750



SR-157

5 cu.ft



SR-120

44600

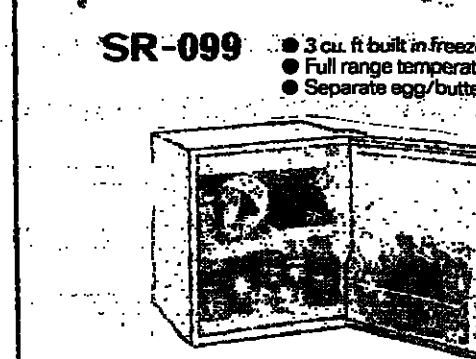


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Turkey — a tourist paradise

THE ancients called it Asia Minor, that thumb of fertile land emerging from the deserts of Arabia in the south which connects the land mass of Asia proper with Europe, while at the same time dividing the Black Sea from the Mediterranean.

Today, after innumerable cultural permutations, the land that has always been the bridge between the Orient and Occident is called Turkey, heir to the cultural richness of the 7,000 recorded years of changing peoples, civilisations, ideas and religions that have risen or taken root in the land that is Anatolia.

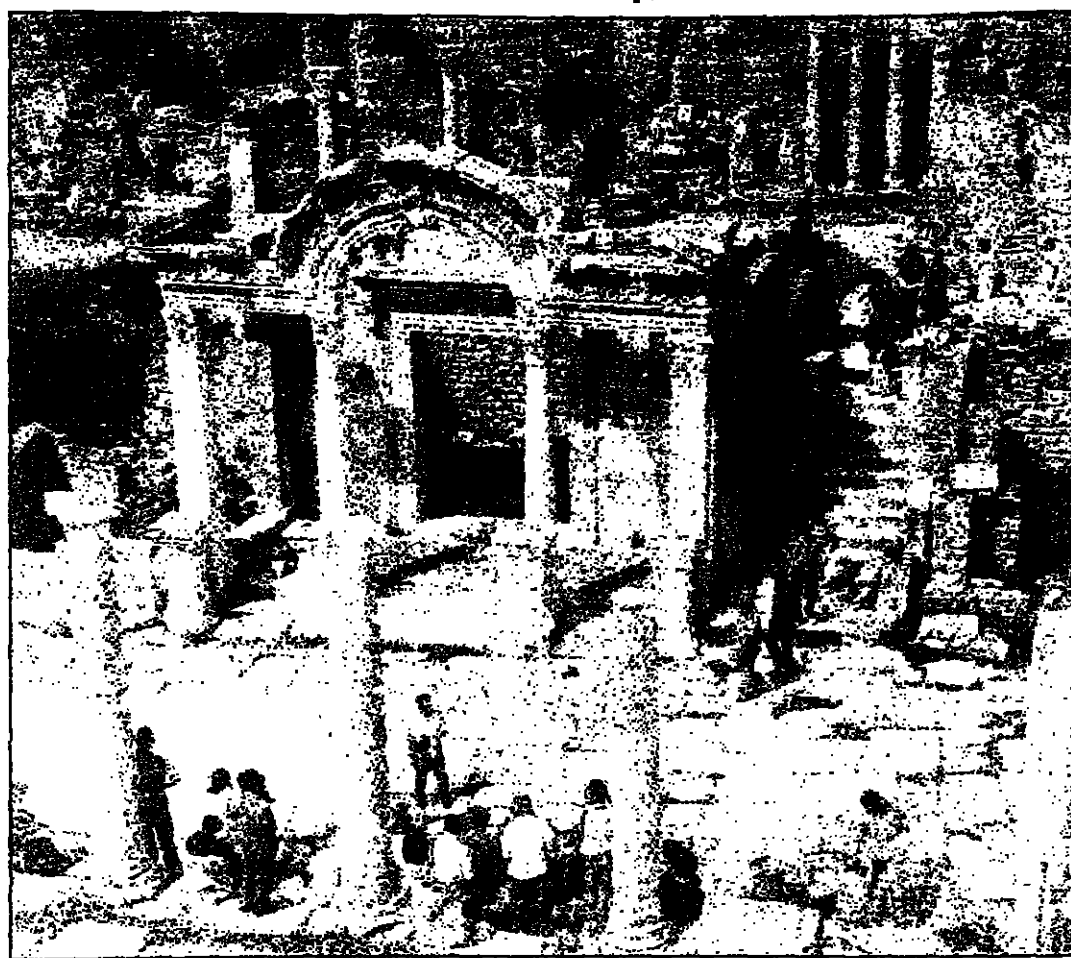
Even the most cursory journey through Anatolia results in a dizzying confrontation with overlapping historical periods, any one of which might well occupy a scholar for a lifetime.

On the road leading from the 11th century AD Seljuk Turkish city of Erzurum in the east, for example, one crosses a bridge built by the Romans on what later became the Silk Road, which passes under the shadow of Mount Ararat where Noah's Ark allegedly came to rest. Remains of the Urartu civilisation mentioned in the annals of Gilgamesh lie scattered in the surrounding valley.

Far to the west overlooking the Dardanelles lies the ancient city of Troy: no pipe-induced dream of the blind bard Homer, but the real city of Hector, Helen and Ulysses, scarred by fire when put to the torch by the men of the original Trojan Horse. The cliffs of Gallipoli — the venue for some of World War One's most vicious fighting — are within eyesight across the channel.

To the south, strung out like so many so many pearls along the berryline waters of the eastern Mediterranean, are scores of ancient cities and citadels, ranging from the Crusader castle at Bodrum (once called Halicarnassus, the home-town of that traveller-qua-traveller, Herodotus) to the mountain fastness of Telmessos, the only city-state of antiquity able to resist Alexander the Great.

To the north, finally, is Istanbul, the capital city of two great world empires, with half the city found in Europe, and half in Asia, separated by one of the most strategic channels of antiquity and the modern world alike, the



Ephesus

Bosphorus.

It is easy to see why both the Byzantines and Ottoman Turks selected Istanbul — called Constantinople under the Byzantines — for the capital of their world empires: scenically, the city that strides both Europe and Asia has to be one of the most naturally beautiful urban sites in the world; strategically, the Bosphorus links the city to both the Black Sea as well as the Aegean, making it a natural entrepot as well as guardian of traditional East-West trade routes.

Within the confines of the city itself are found some of the great sacral architecture of Christianity — such as St Sophia — as well as the very jewels of Muslim architectural genius, notably the Blue Mosque. The great Byzantine walls still stand, as does the Galata Tower, built by the Genoese in their section of the old city prior to its conquest by the Turks in 1453.

Istanbul also boasts perhaps the greatest example of the traditional Middle Eastern market in the Grand Covered Bazaar, where all manner of goods and souvenirs — especially brass and oriental carpets — can be bargained for.

Museums? Istanbul has dozens, but the main attraction for visitors is Topkapi Palace, where relics of the past — including the fabled "Light of Day" dagger with its emerald encrusted handle — are kept in trust.

Istanbul is a city oriented toward the sea, and the best excursions from the metropolitan area are made by ferry boat, either up the Bosphorus to the fairy-tale castles of Rumeli and Anadolu Hisar, or downstream into the Sea of Marmara for a stop at one of the Princes Islands, where no motorised traffic is allowed.

Bursa

Situated at the base of pine-covered Mount Ulu (claimed by some as the original Mount Olympus), Bursa was selected as the first capital of the nascent Ottoman Turks, and was invested with some of the greatest early Ottoman architecture. A singularly clean and beautiful city today, it remains a favourite "getaway" for residents of Istanbul and Ankara seeking a slower pace for the weekend, good food, and a dip in the area's numerous natural thermal baths.

The covered market in Bursa is second only to the Grand Covered Bazaar in Istanbul, and the peak of Mount Ulu is a favourite ski resort in winter.

Edirne

Ancient Adrianople on the banks of the Maritza river on the borders of what are now Greece and Bulgaria, was established as the second Ottoman capital after the sacking of Bursa by the Mongols. Perhaps even more than Bursa, Edirne remains the emotional heart of the Ottoman empire, and it is that city that Ottomans endowed with sacral and secular architecture as no other in their realm. Particularly impressive is the Selimiye Mosque designed by the master builder Sinan, whose mosques, schools, bridges and palaces stretch from Edirne to Damascus in what is referred to as the Sinan Road.

A special treat for visitors to Edirne are the annual grease wrestling championships of males ranging in age from five to fifty drench themselves in olive oil and wrestle for the glory of God (and cash prizes) on the hallowed field of Kirkpinar.

Izmir and the Aegean

Izmir, formerly called Smyrna, was gutted by fire at the end of Turkey's war of independence against the Greeks, but no scars remain today in what is the country's third largest city and most active port. It is also the sea and sand capital of the country, and the natural base for dozens of possible excursions, ranging from the Gallipoli battlefield and Troy to the north, to the "Blue Voyage" yachting centres of Bodrum and Marmaris to the south.

In the immediate neighbourhood of Izmir are the Hellenic cities of Bergama (Pergamum) where paper was first invented, Sardis, the capital of ancient Lydia where gold and silver coins were first minted, and Ephesus, which must qualify as one of the most stunning archaeological sites in the world, and where an annual camel wrestling contest is held each January in the old stadium where gladiators, Christians and lions were formerly employed.

Further away is Aphrodisias, the home of a major school of Roman sculpture, forgotten

until a local farmer unearthed a perfectly preserved bust of the goddess of love, Aphrodite in the 1960's, leading to the on-going excavation of the treasure-trove site.

An hour by car away from Aphrodisias is Pamukkale, or the "cotton castle," a series of white calcium pools formed by hot springs, and used as a spa from Roman times down to our own.

Antalya and the Eastern Mediterranean

Antalya is the touristic capital of Turkey's still unsullied (and only slightly discovered) eastern Mediterranean coast; the old harbour was recently renovated, preserving sense of having once been a pirates' cove while catering to the international yachting crowd.

To the west of Antalya is Turkey's wild-coast, an area known in history as Lycia, with pine-studded mountains plunging down to the untainted sea. Spectacular funerary monuments carved by the ancients into the very faces of cliffs and mountains dot the rugged countryside, but are centred in the town of Demre, once called Myra, and the place where the historical St Nicholas earned his gift-giving reputation while serving as bishop during the 4th century.

East of Antalya the coast is littered with ancient cities and theatres like so many jewels scattered along the endless sand beaches; a favourite is Side, a town so thick with ancient pillars, sculpture and buildings that it is not unusual to find a disco or restaurant half built into some ancient edifice.



Nemrut Dag



Ankara and Central Anatolia

Ankara, the capital of modern Turkey, is essentially a new city with little to offer the traveller other than a few excellent museums and the edifices of modern Turkish political life, notably the Ataturk mausoleum.

But what Ankara might lack as a touristic destination in and of itself, it makes up for as a base of operations for forays into the fascinating central Anatolian hinterland.

The main attraction in the region is Cappadocia, a series of valleys some four hours east of Ankara which have been eroded by wind and rain into a spectacular landscape of rock cones, capped pinnacles ("fairy chimneys") and fretted ravines. Not content with nature's artwork, early Christians seeking refuge from both orthodox Christianity and Muslim invaders alike carved homes, chapels and monasteries out of the soft rock, and even a complete underground city with ventilation shafts and a sewage disposal system.

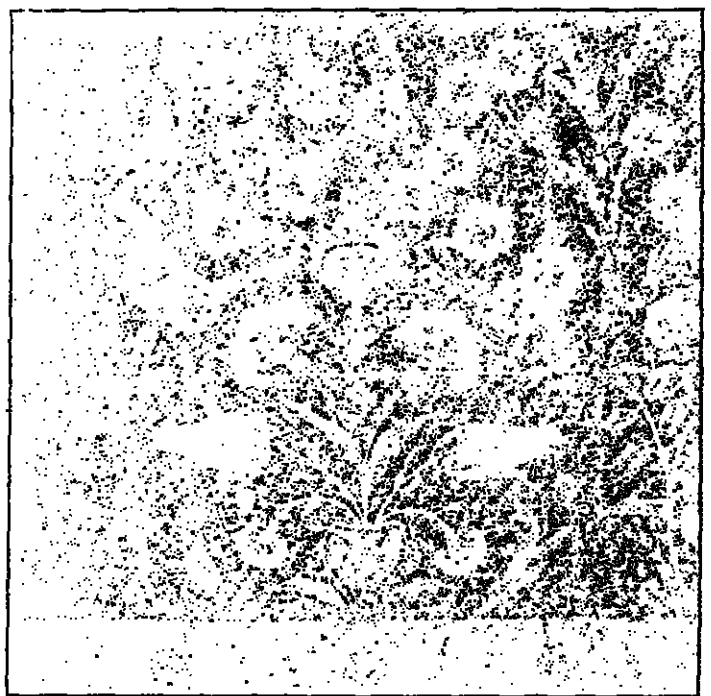
Some two hours south of Ankara is Konya, the capital of the Seljuk Turks, and the city that

gave rise to the Whirling Dervishes who still perform that ecstatic whirling rite every December. A major agricultural centre, Konya remains one of Turkey's most religiously conservative towns, filled with grey-bearded men and black-robed women attending prayers at the city's numerous historic mosques.

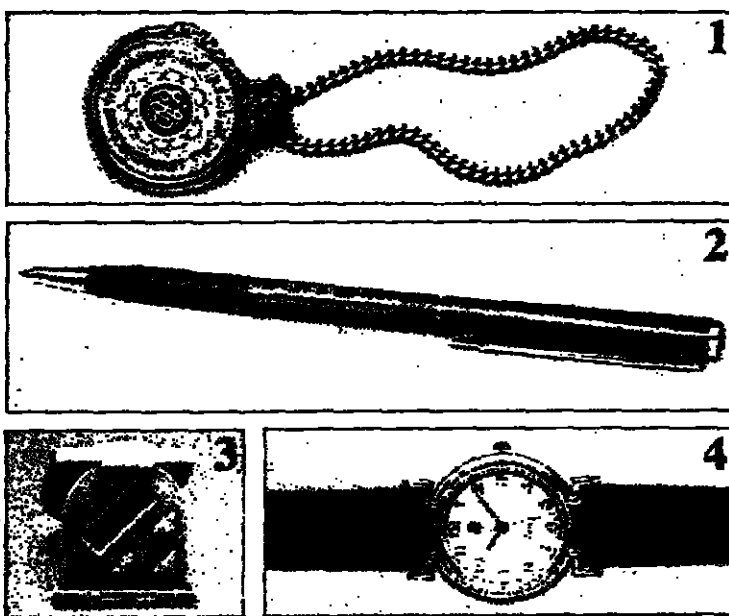
Other excursions out of Ankara would include a day trip to Gordion, the capital of ancient Phrygia where Alexander the Great solved the enigma of the famous "Gordion Knot" by splitting it with his sword, and the near-by town of Akshehir, where the Turkish wise-foot sage Nasrettin Hoja lies buried in a tomb with a window from which he can survey the world.

For those interested in obscure history, Ankara is also a convenient starting point to visit the remains of the once great Hittite civilisation native to Central Anatolia. Mentioned in passing in the Bible, the Hittites received scant scholarly attention until the 1950's, after which point many a scholarly book on the ancient world has had to be revised or entirely rewritten.

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Cuban youngsters play baseball in a street in downtown Havana alongside vintage pre-1959 motor cars. Cuba's communist government has launched an ambitious renovation programme to refurbish the city's decaying old quarter and attract tourists, an important source of foreign exchange.

Cuba Lambada beckons

By Pascal Fletcher

THE crack of bat hitting ball resounds across a narrow, centuries-old street dappled with sunlight as youngsters play baseball against the backdrop of a sparkling blue sea.

Vintage cars — pre-1959 Studebakers, Oldsmobiles and Chevrolets, patched and painted a dozen times, their engines coughing — negotiate their way between dogs, children, garbage cans and piles of building materials.

Striking mulatto girls wearing shorts or mini-skirts and bikini tops try out the steps of the latest dance craze — the Lambada — as music blares from a transistor radio in the shadow of a dilapidated doorway.

The air is hot, humid, heavy with salt.

Street walls, their paint peeling, offer political slogans undecipherable to outsiders.

This is Havana, the scruffy, vibrant capital of communist Cuba, whose four-hundred-year old mix of history, race and culture from three continents — Europe, Africa and America — blends with a distinctive political identity to both attract and bewilder visitors.

Founded by Spanish conquistadores in 1519, sacked by marauding French pirates in 1555, held briefly by the British in 1762 and closely tied with the United States in the first half of this century, the Cuban capital offers a microcosm of Caribbean history.

Located on Cuba's northwest coast, just south of the Tropic of Cancer, it served for centuries as a gateway from the old to the new world, a jumping off point for the discovery and conquest of the Americas and later a flourishing trading centre channelling black African slaves to the American continent.

"Everything is mixed in here," city historian Eusebio Leal said. "Havana is first of all Spain — Seville and Cadiz and Extremadura — and also the Canary Islands. Then mix all this with a bit of Africa and a bit of North America, too."

Visitors to old Havana, a gridiron of narrow streets, dotted with churches, forts and palaces, cannot escape an almost tangible sense of history.

Neither can they ignore the crumbling masonry and stained,

peeling paint that testify to decades of decay and neglect. Cuba's communist government has launched an ambitious renovation programme aimed at refurbishing the city's historic core and making it a major tourist attraction.

Tourism is an important source of hard currency for the cash-starved socialist economy, which has been the target of a strict US economic embargo since the early 1960s.

The restoration programme is backed by Unesco, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation, which listed old Havana as a world heritage site in 1982.

It has refurbished showpiece squares like the Plaza de la Catedral and Plaza de Las Armas as well as the imposing 16th century Morro and Punta fortresses that straddle the mouth of Havana Bay.

Officials say renovation of the old city had been necessarily postponed since Fidel Castro's 1959 revolution as initial policies concentrated on improving the living standards of the island's mainly peasant population.

Before you go:

Tip number one has to be: plan your trip as far in advance as possible. This will enable you to do the best deal in terms of fares, and let you sort out any difficulties while there is still time. It is too late after you have checked in at the airport to discover that there are no facilities for getting your disabled grandmother's wheel-chair onto the aircraft.

You can buy your ticket direct from the airline, through a travel agent or from a discount ticket agent. You must know exactly what you want when booking with an airline, whereas a good travel agent should be able to advise you about cheap fare options, stop-overs, and so on. Again, the earlier you make such enquiries, the better will be the terms you get.

Bonus miles

In some countries, particularly the United States, people who travel regularly by air can collect "bonus miles". Each trip entitles them to a certain number of miles of free travel or class up-grades. As a result somebody taking a business trip from, say, New York to Los Angeles may deliberately take a series of short flights — each segment of the journey will have a bonus rating — rather than fly non-stop from coast to coast. Bonus miles are also given as premiums with certain purchases or credit card transactions.

The idea does not apply in some other countries because their tax authorities consider bonus miles to be personal income and therefore liable to taxation.

Airline privileges

Regular fliers can benefit by joining one or more of the clubs run by the major international airlines. For an annual membership fee you get various privileges at the airport. For example, you may be able to drive up to the entrance of the departure section of a terminal and hand over your car keys for an airline agent to park your car for you. On your return, the car will be brought to you at the exit of the arrivals section of the terminal.

Baggage allowances may be less rigorously enforced for club members. Inside the airport terminal, frequent traveller's clubs usually have their own comfortable departure lounges, with

Plan your journey

facilities such as free beverages and free local telephone calls. And if seats are unfilled in first-class, you may be up-graded.

Checklist

Make sure that you have:
■ An up-to-date passport.
■ Any necessary visas.
■ Any required vaccinations and vaccination certificates. Remember that a course of anti-malaria tablets has to be started before you leave.
■ Foreign currency and/or traveller's cheques (or Euro-cheques). Check the expiry date of your credit cards.
■ Insurance cover for personal effects (loss or damage); make a note of the serial numbers of cameras and so on. You can also insure against ticket cancellation charges.

■ Medical insurance.
■ Air tickets. Check the name, date, destination, flight time and airport terminal.

Tickets and bookings

■ Discount ticket agents — popularly called bucket shops — sell tickets at much less than the official fares.
■ Unoccupied seats are sold by airlines at a large discount — often through a middleman — to bucket shops, which in turn offer bargain fares.
■ Check the conditions attached to tickets obtained in this way — there may be heavy penalties for cancellation.
■ Any particular requirements, such as special diets (or disabilities), should be made known to the airline at the time of booking, and in any case at least 24

hours before departure time.
■ If you are pregnant, check with your doctor that it is safe for you to fly (and with the airline that it will take you).
■ If you take regular medication, make sure you have an adequate supply for the whole trip.
■ If you wear spectacles or contact lenses, take a spare pair with you.

Baggage tips

■ Do not carry that versatile Swiss penknife — it may be confiscated.
■ Do not attach a baggage label with your home address visible — it is an invitation to professional thieves to rob your home while you are away. Use instead baggage labels on which your address is securely concealed behind a tab.

■ Remember that each passenger is allowed to take only one item of hand baggage inside the aircraft. This must be small enough to fit under the seat in front.

■ A carrying basket for a baby is permitted above the free baggage allowance, but may have to be put in the hold.

■ Assume that your baggage will be thrown around. If there is any doubt about the strength of locks or zips, secure straps around your bags.

■ If you wish to take a particularly valuable, fragile, bulky package with you — such as large musical instrument — book a separate seat for it. The security and peace-of-mind will be worth the cost.

Health hints

AIR travel today is more comfortable and more streamlined than ever before. But even the most experienced traveller can fall prey to various disorders. These range from air sickness or fatigue to the now renowned executive bugbear known as jet-lag. All these problems can, however, be either prevented or at least greatly eased.

Fatigue

During or after a flight fatigue is common. It is caused by the length of the journey and also frequently by pre-flight anxiety or excitement. Rest and relax before flying. See to pre-flight preparations such as immunization and vaccination well in advance, and avoid too hectic a schedule on the day before the flight.

Air sickness

Caused by a bumpy ride (and by anxiety and excitement) sickness is sometimes experienced in aircraft, just as it is in cars and boats. Because modern aircraft fly above bad weather, it is now an infrequent ailment, affecting probably not more than one in a thousand travellers.

But turbulence can upset the labyrinth mechanism of the inner ear — part of the organ of balance — and cause sickness. Keep the head as still as possible on the headrest. Avoid fried and fatty foods, excess alcohol and smoking. Ask a doctor's advice on sickness tablets, particularly in pregnancy. The effective drugs include hyoscine, cyclizine, diphenhydramine, meclizine and promethazine.

Pressurization problems

An aircraft cabin is a communal space suit; air is pumped in to keep the pressure at the outside equivalent of 8,000 feet altitude. For

technical reasons it is not possible to achieve ground-level pressure in the aircraft, and the difference can cause discomfort when gases in the body, especially in the intestines, expand.

Palliative are not to overeat, to avoid carbonated and to wear loose clothing and shoes. Change of pressure during takeoff or landing can affect the ears. A popping sensation is common, or earache or even temporary deafness. These can all be overcome by constant yawning or swallowing. Babies achieve the same end by crying noisily. Anyone with a heavy cold or sinus trouble is prone to sinus pain or earache during a flight, particularly during the descent. Nose drops help but, if possible, avoid flying. Smokers in particular may be affected by the cabin atmosphere as they have a small amount of carbon monoxide in their blood. As the oxygen decreases so this amount increases, sometimes causing a headache or a feeling of being "one degree under." The remedy is to cut down smoking.

Dehydration

The aircraft's pumped-in atmosphere is slightly dry. As a result dehydration can occur. Combat this by drinking as much fluid as possible. Alcohol increases dehydration, so avoid it in flight and be particularly abstemious on long flights to hot countries; dehydration is a serious problem in hot climates.

Swollen ankles

Sitting in the same seat on a long flight puts continuous pressure on the veins in the thighs. People with varicose veins are most affected and their feet and ankles may swell slightly. Wear loose roomy shoes, preferably lace-ups, and walk up and down the cabin periodically. This affects travellers flying east-west or

west-east journeys in which they change time zones. Biological rhythms have a programme of around 24 hours, and jet-lag is the failure of the body to adjust its own routine to a clock that may, for instance, bring darkness — and bedtime — ten hours earlier or later than usual. Eating, sleeping and excreting may all be uncomfortably affected and mental reactions may also slow down considerably. The effects of jet-lag seem to be greater on east-bound flights than on westbound. Reactions can be slowed for two days following a ten-zone trip westward, and for three days after a similar eastward trip.

The most cautious medical advice is that one full day of recovery is needed for each five-hour time change. Travellers should try to go to bed as near as possible to their usual bedtime on the first night after arriving; quick-acting aperient pills can allay constipation until the bowels become accustomed to a new daily routine.

The short-stay traveller, such as the businessman continually on the move, is most at risk from jet-lag: the long-stay traveller on holiday has enough time to acclimatize. Babies of up to three months are the most fortunate — their eating and sleeping cycles seem to be unaffected.

Medical problems

All the previous forms of discomfort can temporarily affect the healthy traveller but can be prevented or overcome easily. Diabetics should eat their flight meals at the same time as meals at home; the elderly and anyone with heart trouble should avoid smoking. Above all anyone who is in doubt about his state of health should consult a doctor before flying.

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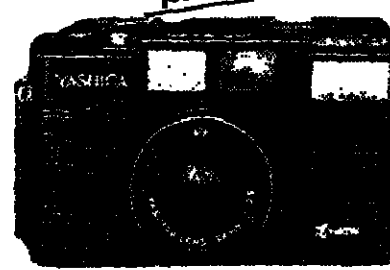
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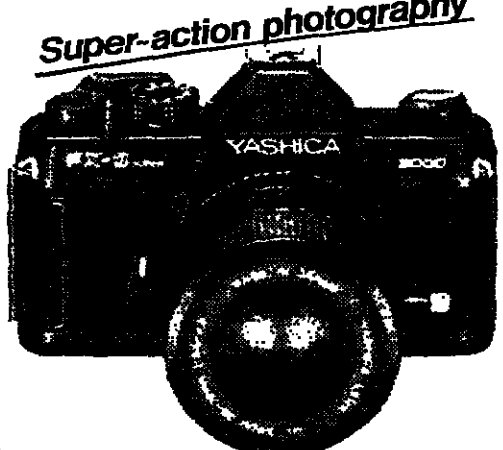
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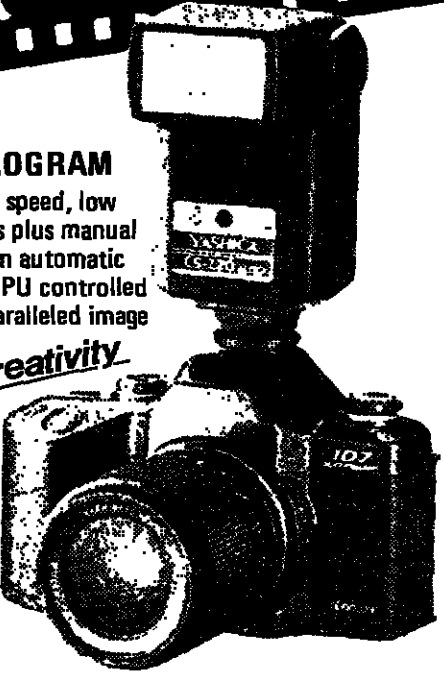


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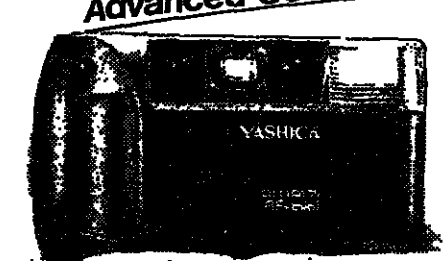
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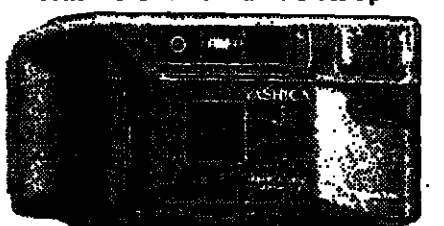
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India: exquisite charm



Shamshi Peak.

of Parvati Valley

By R.N. Pasricha

MANIKARAN is a small town in Kulu Valley. To the inhabitants of this valley Nature has provided an inexhaustible source of energy in the form of hot water springs. These springs are used for steaming food, for bathing and for washing. There is a Himachal Pradesh Government tourist complex in Manikaran where boarding and lodging are reasonably priced and of good quality.

Manikaran, located in Parvati Valley, is reached from Bhuntar, which is situated at the confluence of the rivers Parvati and Beas. Bhuntar is connected by a reliable bus service from Delhi and Chandigarh and also has a small air strip where an air service operates from Chandigarh. Bhuntar in itself is a beautiful place in the heart of Himalayan forests overshadowed by towering snowcapped

peaks of exquisite charm.

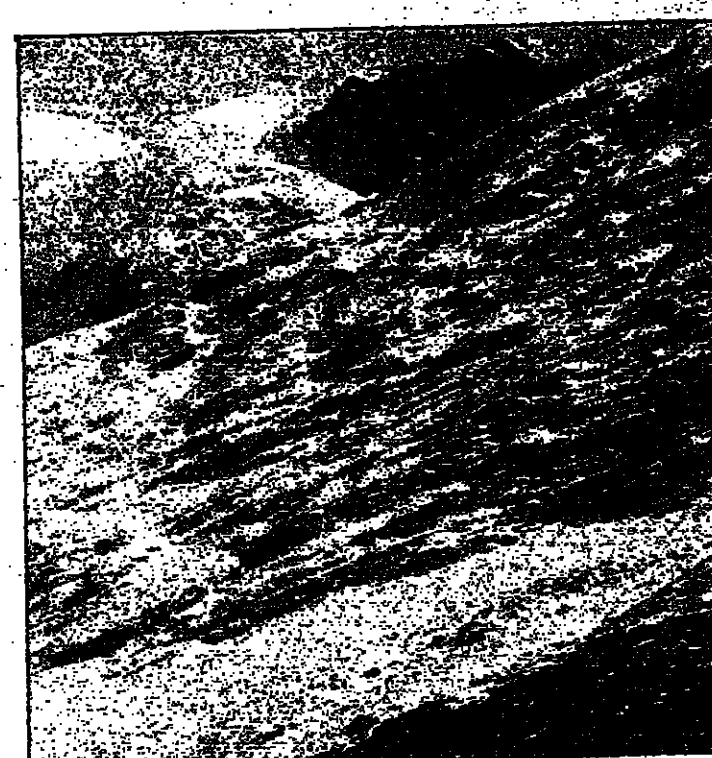
From Manikaran, a small trek to the base of Shamshi Peak in the little known Tosh Valley is a memorable experience. It is a four-day trek which offers all the delights of the high Himalayas.

We left Manikaran before sunrise and followed the bridge path on the right bank of Parvati river. It was first a gradual climb and then a level walk through woods of conifers. About four kilometres from Manikaran we saw the big town of Pule.

In the evening we reached Barsheni village, where we decided to spend the night. Next day, it was a brilliant morning and we would our camp at the first ray of the sun. After covering a short distance we came to the confluence of river Parvati and Tosh nullah and followed Tosh. Tosh dropped from a considerable height to become a waterfall. After an hour's climb we reached a clearing in the woods where

ancient conifers were big and tall. The woods are nicknamed *Budha van* (the old forest). We camped here to spend the night.

Morning was very cold and clear and after breakfast we left for the base of Shamshi Peak. We passed through beautiful jungles of tall conifers, over snow-covered slopes, through forests of birches and finally reached a clearing beyond which there were no trees. It must be around 12,000 feet high. In front of us stood the tall rocky Shamshi peak, glistening in the sunlight throwing a challenge to the mountaineers. Across a nullah stood another majestic peak — Dibbi. It looked nothing short of the abode of Gods, where nothing but tranquility prevailed. From there we bade farewell to *Budha van*. It was now downwards all the way to Manikaran, which we reached the same evening.



The Dibbi Peak.

Travel books

● **TRAVELS IN NEPAL**, by Charlie Pye-Smith (Penguin £4.99) is now out in paperback. Unlike many who are carried away by the romance of the Himalaya, Mr Pye-Smith puts Nepal into perspective. Nothing — foreign aid, wildlife parks, tourism, hydro-electric power — is as simple as it first appears. Not a guidebook, but essential reading for those who want to see beneath the tourist veneer.

● The Soviet Union is likely to become one of the hot tourist spots of the 1990s, so *Discovering Moscow*, by Helen Boldyreff Semler (Equation £9.95), is a well-timed guidebook. Its 384 pages are packed with facts: historical, cultural and practical. There are also suggested itineraries, with maps, and a useful guide to museums and galleries, shopping, hotels and restaurants.

Travel tips

HIGH-KICKING footballers will not be the only sporting heroes in Milan this summer. A century after Buffalo Bill's rodeo show hit town, bucking broncos will be kicking up the dust in Milan Arena again on June 22 and 23. There will also be an opportunity to see Italian paintings from the 15th, 16th and 17th centuries back on their home ground: a collection loaned by the Hermitage in Leningrad will be exhibited at Milan's Palazzo Reale until September.

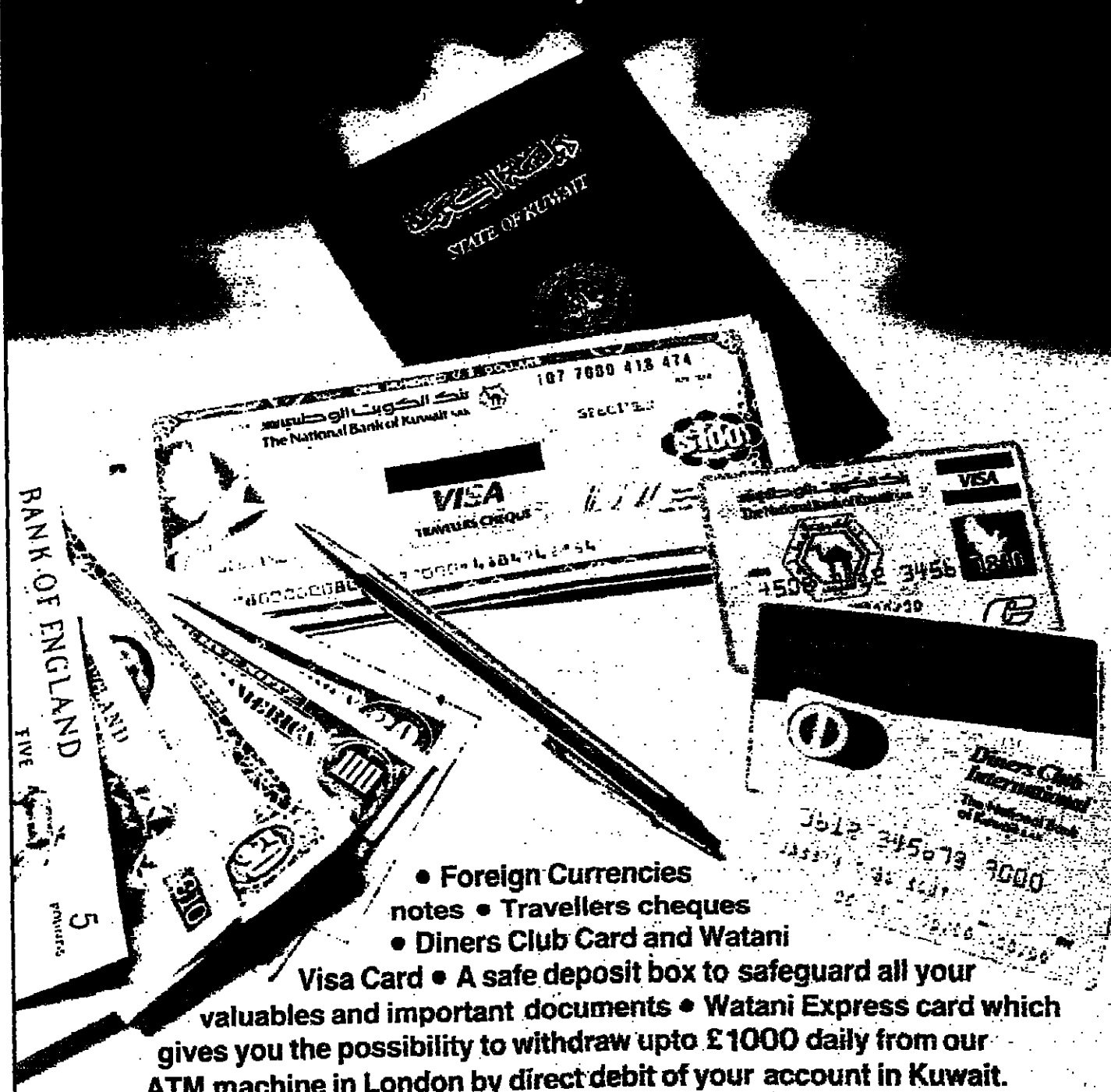
Australia, the most aspired-to destination in our survey of *Times* readers' holiday habits is no longer seen as a once-in-a-lifetime experience. More than half of those who travelled there with Rainbow Holidays said they will want to return within five to 10 years. But the poll of those who had seen Oz for themselves with the company's Australia in Focus programme said that service in British hotels, shops and restaurants was better.

Ring out the new, ring in the old. Ibiza's best-known resort, San Antonio, is to have its old Catalan name of Sant Antoni back again — all part of the drive to give the place a bit of tone and put larger loans from our minds.

Fixing up affordable transfers from airport to resort has always been the hitch in putting together DIY ski packages. But now Inasun is offering bookable coach transfers from £18 return with its Skyworld programme of charter flights. Reservations through travel agents.

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Thailand

Exotic land in the heart of Asia

THAILAND, once known as Siam, is an exotic country in the heart of Southeast Asia. It is a land where the past and present meet to produce a kaleidoscope of stunning attractions, coloured by a unique culture and enduring traditions. Giving life to this enchanting world are the gentle and genuinely hospitable Thais who extended a warm welcome to all visitors. Indeed a country of golden places and smiling faces.

Roughly the size of France with a population of some 50 million Thailand is bordered by Burma to the west, Kampuchea to the east, Laos to the North and Malaysia to the south. It is a tropical country with three seasons, summer from February through May, rainy with plenty of sunshine from June to September and cool from October through January. The average annual temperature is 28°C (83°F).

Sights and scenes are rich and varied, from the golden-spired temples and palaces of Bangkok to the majestic ruins of ancient cities; from the excitement of beach resorts to the quiet charm of rural towns.

Nature has been generous with her gifts too. As varied as the historical and cultural sights is the beauty of ever-changing landscapes — idyllic tropical islands, unspoiled sandy beaches, jungle-clad mountains, rivers, waterfalls and fertile plains supporting a patchwork of rice paddies, all bathed in year-round sunshine.

Added to all this is a wonderfully piquant national cuisine with a huge variety of spicy dishes — not to mention an abundance of succulent tropical fruits that affords delicious discoveries for even the most well-travelled gourmet. Then there is an enormous range of shopping possibilities and, above all, superb accommodation and transport facilities to ensure a stay in perfect comfort.

Unique

Giving a unique character to the land and people is a quintessential quality of "Thainess" which stems from a strong adherence to traditions that have evolved over more than 700 years of independent development. This is most readily witnessed in



Touring by trishaw in the north.

the practice of the Buddhist faith and in the deep respect and love accorded to the king, made manifest in numerous religious and royal festivals and ceremonies as well as pervading aspects of daily life.

At the same time, Thailand is a modern dynamic nation, firmly planted in the 20th century and eyeing the 21st with confidence. Throughout the land there is thus a remarkable blend of the old and the new. This means that while the cultural heritage has been preserved to an extraordinary degree, the visitor can also appreciate the comfort and convenience provided by the most up-to-date facilities.

Bangkok

Because of this, coupled with the amazing choice of things to do and see, Thailand is the ideal vacation destination for all kinds of visitors — single travellers exploring the world, couples, families, and retired people who seek an extended stay in a place where there is always sunny and where there need never be a dull moment. Moreover, Thailand is inexpensive and affords the amenities to suit whatever the preference, whatever the budget.

For most visitors, Bangkok, the capital, is both Thailand's gateway and principal destination. Initial impressions are of a modern metropolis geared to the

needs of today's world. Joyfully exuberant, the city embraces latter-day and largely Western inspired development. You see towering office blocks, world-class deluxe hotels, and other thrusting high-rise buildings.

Amazingly this fabulous city manages at the same time to present wonderful images of its cultural heritage — The Grand Palace, Temple of the Emerald Buddha, and Temple of the Dawn, to name but three magnificent sights. Here the visitor is presented with dazzling images of Oriental splendour.

Fabulous though Bangkok sightseeing is, viewing awe-inspiring national treasures is not all the city has to offer. Shopping, whether in typical Thai markets or in luxury department stores, offers a host of excellent buys: silks, jewellery and gemstones, tailor-made clothing, antiques and an enormous variety of handicrafts in wood, ceramic, bronze and other traditional materials.

Dining out is another world of discovery with, in addition to spicy Thai food, virtually the whole range of other national cuisines available at a staggering number of restaurants in all price categories. As for entertainment, the choice is again plentiful, from cultural shows, theatre, musical performances, cocktail lounges,

discos, Thai-style boxing bouts, dinner cruises on the Chao Phya River — there is something for everyone.

From Bangkok the visitor can take many half-and full-day sightseeing excursions. A little way north is the ruined city of Ayutthaya, the capital for more than 400 years and the most magnificent city in the Orient until its destruction by the enemy invader in 1767. To the West lies the world's tallest Buddhist monument at Nakhon Pathom, and beyond is the infamous Bridge over the River Kwai, built by allied POWs during World War II. These are but two of the most popular options for short excursions.

Beach resorts

Beyond Bangkok, touring possibilities cater to all interests. A tropical climate combined with a long coastline, means that Thailand offers a superb choice of beach resorts where fine hotels complement the delights of beautiful natural settings. Just a two-hour drive southeast of the capital is Pattaya on the Gulf of Thailand. It is a colourful and vibrant place where a complete spectrum of watersport amenities is blended with a wealth of on-land entertainments to ensure there is never a dull moment, night or day.

In different mood, the resorts

of Hua Hin and Cha-am, on the opposite side of the Gulf from Pattaya, present a quieter scene for a more restful enjoyment of sun, sea and sand.

Further afield, the island of Phuket, off the southwest coast, an hour's flight from Bangkok, is different again. Here is truly breathtaking tropical coastal scenery — unspoiled beaches of powdery white sand and the clear blue waters of the Andaman Sea set against a backdrop of rolling hills and lush green vegetation.

Even more pristine is Samui island off the southeast coast. Less developed than Phuket it affords the perfect escape into a Robinson Crusoe world — with, of course, all creature comforts.

Hill country

If such joys as windsurfing, scuba diving or simply lazing on a beach and soaking up the tropical sunshine are not your preference, northern Thailand presents a very different scene. This is hill country where elephants still work in the teak forests and various colourful hilltribes maintain lifestyles largely unaffected by mainstream society. It is also a more traditional part of Thailand and the pace of life is slower than in Bangkok.

Capital of the North is Chiang Mai, an old and delightful city, distinguished by a long history as the onetime power centre of an independent Thai kingdom. Thus there is a wealth of ancient



Idyllic island scenery in the south.

temples and other cultural attractions that are quite distinct from those of Bangkok.

Chiang Mai is also one of the world's largest centres for cottage industries and here you can see craftsmen using skills that have been passed on from generation to generation to produce a wide variety of handicrafts — silverware, celadon pottery, lacquerware, woodcarving, handmade paper umbrellas and more. The place is a veritable shopper's paradise and the visitor can browse around numerous workshops or at the famous Night Bazaar where hill-tribe handicrafts are also sold. There is much to hold the

attention in the city itself, yet Chiang Mai is also a marvellous base for exploring the entire North, either on full-day tours or overnight excursions to historic towns such as Chiang Rai, or to a sleepy little Shangri-La like Mae Hong Son hidden deep in the folds of the picturesque hills. The visitor can also trek in the jungles of the 'Golden Triangle' to visit hilltribe villages, travelling either on foot, by elephant or river.

For history and culture buffs, Thailand has a rich fascination. The land has been a cultural crossroads and many sites exist as silent witnesses to the country's evolution. In the northeastern

village of Ban Chiang archaeological finds have yielded evidence of a civilization dating back more than 5,000 years. Moving from prehistoric times into recorded history, the north-east region also boasts the finest Khmer monuments of the Angkor period to be seen outside Kampuchea.

Relating to the Thai period proper, there are the ruins of the first capital, Sukhothai, founded in the 13th century and today preserved in an attractive historical park. Many other historic towns around the country, such as Lop Buri, further preserve monuments attesting to the past glories of the Thai kingdom.

Guide to hiring a car in UK

By Judith Carter

I WAS in a hurry. No, I hadn't driven this particular car before, but I'd been hiring cars for years and, thank you, I was sure I could work out the controls. The lady from the car hire company departed. For the rest of my trip I heaved my luggage on and off the back seat, unable to find the catch (that's the trunk). The moral of that tale is this: never pass up the chance of having every little switch explained to you.

All the major car hire companies offer a free collection and delivery service at international airports in Britain. Some extend this to railway stations, which is to me the ultimate in freedom: the chance to speed out of a major city by rail, arriving, say, in the Scottish Highlands in time to find a remote coastal road, there to watch the sun set over the western isles... you can see that I need no persuasion.

Hire charges do not vary greatly, although a Rolls Royce will obviously cost considerably more than a modest, four-door saloon. You can usually save money by using a smaller, or local, company, and though these don't always offer the same degree of flexibility as a national organisation you might appreciate what is often a more easy-going and informal approach.

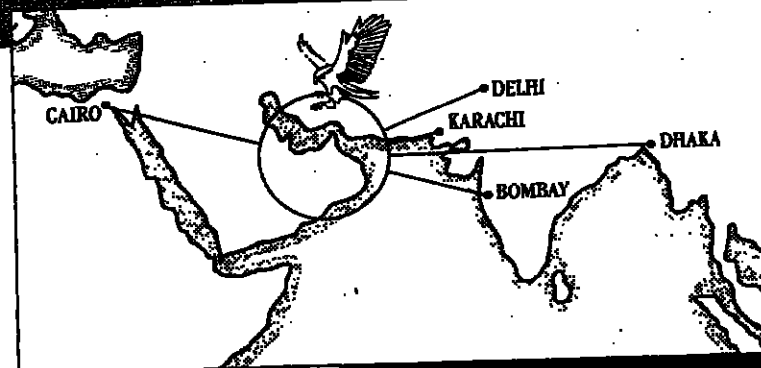
If you're planning your itinerary day by day, it's nice to be able to call a nation-wide hire company to say, for example, that you'll leave the car at Newcastle instead of Birmingham without incurring extra charges.

Check on what is included in the hire "package". The amount of free petrol and free mileage varies. Unless you're feeling intrepid, make sure that the vehicle is covered by a 24-hour rescue service. Both the Automobile Association (AA) and the Royal Automobile Club (RAC) operate a "relay" service which guarantees transport to your destination should your vehicle break down or be involved in an accident. This covers pretty much all eventualities, but it will not get you out of self-induced trouble, as one hapless visitor to Britain discovered last year. Emerging from a city-centre department store he was astonished to see his hire car some ten feet up in the air. Neatly manoeuvred by a mobile crane on to an adjacent truck, his car sped off to the local pound. Tough treatment for those who park illegally (that's on double yellow lines and, within advertised times, on single yellow lines) now includes wheel clamping and impounding.

I know it seems unlikely to first-timers, but driving on the left is not as daunting a prospect as it sounds. Before you hit the high roads, spend a little time in a quiet side street getting to know the car. Choosing an automatic gearbox might make driving easier, but it's more expensive on petrol and less fun on hills and winding roads where "stick shift" definitely gives you more precision. Of course you won't need reminding that most manual gearboxes have five forward and one reverse gear, or will you?

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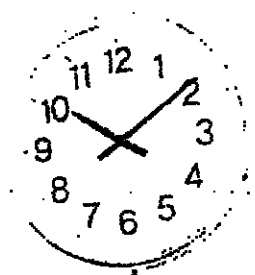
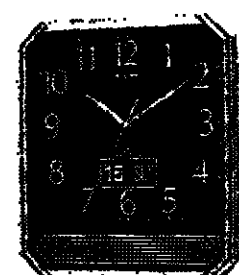
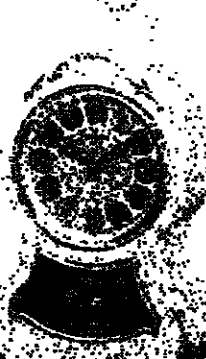
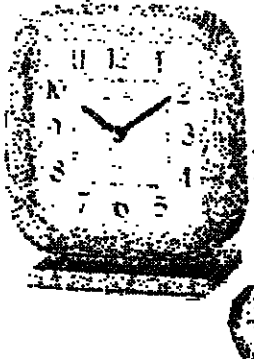


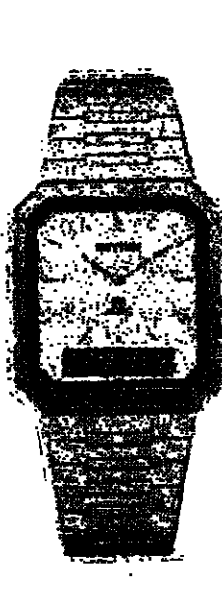
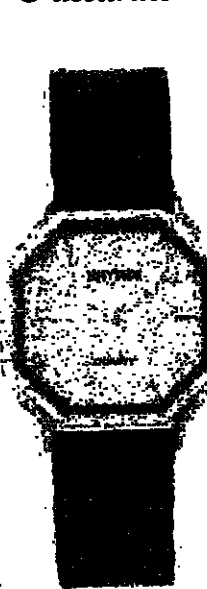
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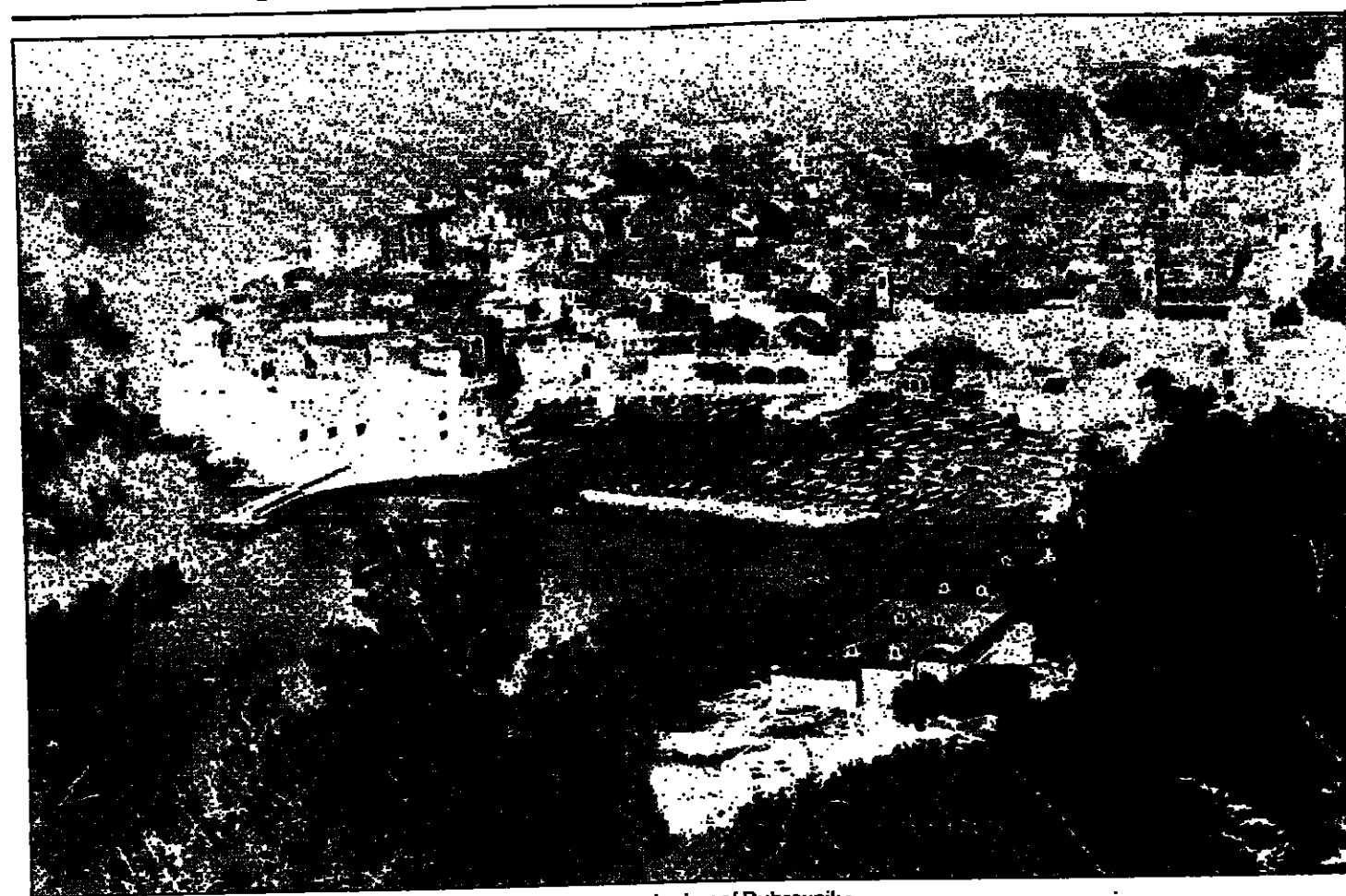


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TRAVEL AND TOURISM

An Arab Times special supplement



A panoramic view of Dubrovnik.

Yugoslavia

East Europeans expected

By Timothy Heritage

MAKARSKA, Yugoslavia, (Renter): Wallow in curative mud, bathe in spa water or shoot a bear — that is Yugoslavia's invitation as it tried to prevent the rest of Eastern Europe luring away tourists following the collapse of communism.

Yugoslav officials at a tourism conference in the Adriatic resort of Makarska in May said democratic reforms in the East Bloc have awakened the curiosity of millions of Westerners and threaten to hit tourism in the Balkan country.

Yugoslavia, which is still ruled by communists, has long considered itself outside the East bloc and relaxed travel restrictions for foreigners more than 20 years ago.

To prevent it losing out now, Yugoslav officials are offering offbeat holidays as well as the sunny Adriatic beaches that attract millions of foreigners.

They are promoting holidays where the tourist can recuperate

or just relax in natural spas, find a cure in organic mud or hunt game from wild boar to water fowl. It is also speeding up the development of winter and water sports.

"It's estimated that three million West Germans will go to East Germany this year to see relatives and friends and we are aware we will lose people who would have come to Yugoslavia," said Nikola Ban, head of the Tourist Association of Yugoslavia.

"Like all things, tourism has been affected by the changes in East Europe and become freer. Our main attraction is still the Adriatic coast, but with winter tourism and spas in second place. We can develop tourism all year long," he told Reuters.

Yugoslavia attracted almost 10 million foreign tourists and earned about \$2.2 billion from them in hand currency in 1989, helping service its \$16.5 billion foreign debt.

But tourism has stagnated and

countries such as Romania and Hungary are stepping up efforts to attract foreign visitors.

Prime Minister Ante Markovic says Yugoslavia can make more from tourism and wants to boost earnings to about \$10 billion a year by the end of the decade.

Yugoslavia has already dotted its long coastline with big hotels but officials say the country should do better from tourism. Some foreigners complain about poor service or are put off because they think Yugoslavia is politically unstable.

Now Yugoslavia has turned to the spas and medicinal waters used by the ancient Celts, Roman legions, Byzantine dignitaries and feudal lords. It hopes to profit from fitness enthusiasts and a growing interest in alternative medicine.

The 70 spas and health and recreation centres on offer include the Mediterranean health centre in Igalo, on the Adriatic coast, where visitors

pay for treatment with the local mineral water or organic curative mud which helps the skin.

Wealthy visitors can even hire out late President Josip Broz Tito's former villa which is now part of the Igalo Centre, and spas can be found in many parts of the country.

"We have an increasing number of American citizens who are chronic sufferers, often in untractable pain. Many of them have tried other treatments but come to us to be treated in a sophisticated, effective and non-pharmaceutical way," Dr. Milan Obradovic, the centre's marketing director, said.

Interest in hunting is also growing and attracted about 30,000 West Germans, French, Italians and Austrians last year, pulling in about \$12 million.

Yugoslavia's mountains, forests and plains with long rivers make good hunting regions. Game includes deer, bear, chamois, wild boar, pheasant, grouse and partridge.

Travel sport: all at sea

Set sail and discover the charm of the high seas

By Adriaane Pielou

ONE of the best holidays I've ever had was a week in spring a few years ago spent sailing along the coast of Yugoslavia. We awoke each morning to blue skies and a light breeze and, after bacon and eggs on deck, we stepped ashore for the day's briefing by the skipper. By ten the anchor was up. Sails billowing, we were off along one of the most ravishing coasts in Europe, heading for a lunchtime rendezvous in some empty bay. By late afternoon, as the sun was dropping in the sky, we'd finally sail into a port for the night. And that was my favourite bit.

The ports were invariably ancient little villages, either on the beautiful-pine forested mainland coast or the craggy little

islands that dot it, with a semi-circle of fishermen's houses and tavernas lining the stone quayside. We tied up, then showered and changed clothes, savouring the feelings of hunger, thirst and virtuous exhaustion. By 6.30pm, we were seated at a table outside one of those bustling quayside tavernas, ordering grilled fish and white wine, and watching the sun set on the horizon.

Our flotilla was made up of nine 28ft, six-berth yachts, and our fellow sailors ranged from a nine-month-old non-participant who spent the week in a miniature life-jacket in a canopied rush crib lashed to the deck, to a family group of nine — two weather-beaten grandparents, two daughters and their husbands, and three grandchildren

— who chartered a pair of boats for the week.

There were three of us on our yacht, plus a skipper who slept on the mother boat. We started the week with no experience of handling a yacht (one knew how to sail a dinghy and that was it), but we were keen to learn, and discovered that by joining a flotilla sailing holiday we could also hire a skipper who would teach us to crew as we went along. It worked brilliantly. The two of us with no experience just followed orders as obediently as possible, but after three days of tuition from our patient, capable skipper — a 22-year-old ex-merchant seaman who came from Plymouth — the dinghy sailor was confident enough to be able to share skippering shifts. We could hardly bear to go home at the end of the

week.

Given the trend for holidays that bring families together — in particular, sports and activity holidays that everyone can join in — holidays on boats seem set for a boom. Apart from getting you all out into the fresh air, the great thing about a boating holiday is the huge world of possibilities it opens up. You can restrict your interest to an annual fortnight, or go sailing every other weekend. You can spend thousands on a holiday — or less than £50. Start this summer and, in a few years' time, you could be thinking about a charter in the Caribbean while your now expert teen-age children work their way around the world on luxury yachts by crewing from port to port.

Tempted? If you were thinking

of another fortnight by the Mediterranean this summer, it's not too late to book. Even if your family has never set foot in a boat, you can join a crewed flotilla holiday. As long as you book at least a couple of weeks in advance, the flotilla companies will happily provide a skipper and mate to sail the boat for you.

If you can already handle a boat, however, this could be the summer you start exploring Britain's beautiful lakes and waterways. Renting a yacht on Lake Windermere, for instance, which is a lovely way to see the Lake District, needn't cost you more than around £200. And, at its cheapest and most basic, a sailing holiday can mean renting a narrow-boat for a weekend in the autumn, and seeing the countryside from a new perspective as

you chug along a scenic stretch of our 2,000-mile system of canals.

Or why not sign up for a jolly weekend's canoeing? This is a wonderfully satisfying aspect of sailing because it's so easy to pick up, and being so close to the water somehow reduces the fear of falling in. As long as you arrange your own accommodation, weekend courses — at this time of year under way on virtually every sizeable stretch of water in Britain — can often cost from as little as £30 per person.

Yachting and dinghy sailing

Sailing schools with weekend and week-long courses for novices operate all around the British coast. Children are usually accepted from the age of eight/ten (accompanied) and

ten/twelve (unaccompanied); the usual requirement is confidence in the water with a buoyancy aid or wearing a life-jacket. Some schools, however, stipulate that children must be able to swim 25 metres. The Royal Yachting Association is the sport's governing body, and can supply a list of recognised sailing schools in Britain (tel: 0703-629962).

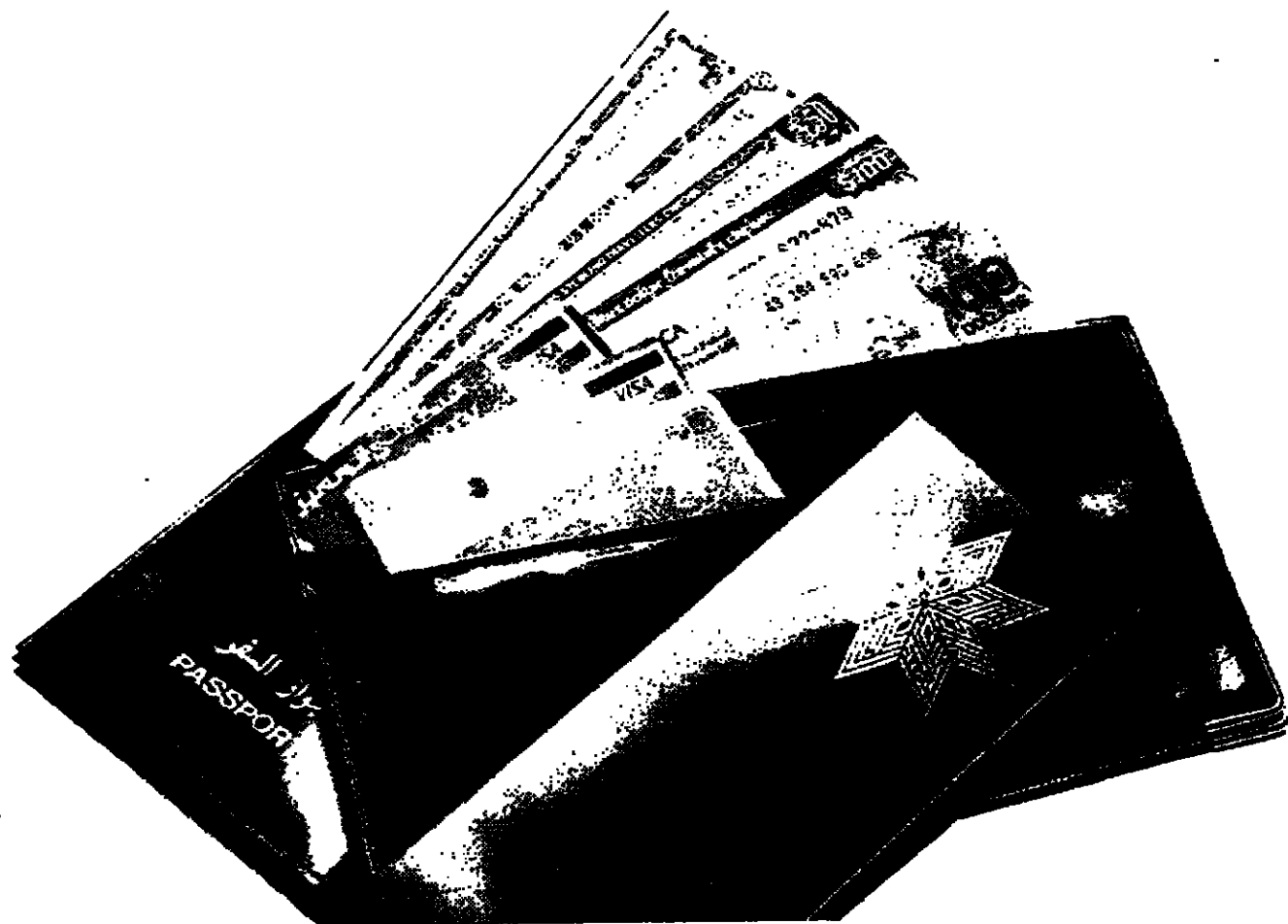
The smaller the classes the more individual (and effective) the tuition, so look for a school that limits participants to a maximum of a dozen. Well-respected centres around the country include the Emsworth Sailing School (tel: 0705-210510), which operates from Chichester Harbour, Port Solent in Portsmouth and Lake Windermere. Their courses are aimed at all age groups and levels of expertise. A

three-day flotilla training course, for example, will cost you from £65 to £120 (accommodation is extra).

The Oysterworld Sailing School in Ipswich (tel: 0473-230109) offers two and five-day yachting and dinghy sailing courses, as well as sailing holidays to Belgium and Holland. A yachting weekend costs \$112 all-in. This school unusually takes accompanied children from the age of nine.

At the Cumbria National Water Sports Training Centre on the Firth of Clyde in Scotland (tel: 0475-674666), a five-day dinghy sailing course costs around £185 per person all-in, and includes use of the extensive sports facilities when you're not sailing.

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An ancient civilisation where funerals are celebrated

By Frederic Spotts

ONE of the greatest pleasures of travel comes from being able to combine a dramatic change of location with an authentic step back in time. The pleasure is all the greater if the place is scenically outstanding and the time change is one, not of mere centuries, but of millennia.

When the area is accessible, not just to rugged young trekkers prepared to rough it but also to ageing sybarites wanting air-conditioned transport, a western bed and bath a swimming pool, a bar and dining room, there you have a Shangri-La with all mod cons.

Such a place is Torajaland in the highlands of southern Sulawesi, the oddly shaped Indonesian island known in English as Celebes. Hidden away in this remote mountainous area is an ancient civilisation, little changed over many centuries, and some of the most sublime scenery to be found in Asia.

By far the most curious feature of Torajan civilisation — and what attracts most visitors — is its death cult and the related ceremonies and tombs. Although Christianity is now the predominant religion, it is only a thin veneer over traditional animist beliefs and ancestor worship.

The Torajan is obsessed by death and, like the ancient Egyptians, believes you can take it with you. A funeral ceremony is therefore as much celebration as obsequy — in fact it is called a "festival of the dead" — and requires the sacrifice of the most precious of a family's possessions, its farm animals, in the belief that they will join the dead person in the next life. Throngs of relatives, friends and villagers from miles around attend the event, which lasts from three to 10 days.

The higher the caste of the deceased, the longer the ceremony and the larger the number of animals sacrificed. Although for a poor peasant, one water buffalo and six or eight pigs suffice, for the noble caste as many as 24 buffalo and 200 pigs are slaughtered. In James Frazer's *The Golden Bough* one can read about ancient blood sacrifices; in Torajaland one can still actually witness them. The ceremony is an experience never to be forgotten, gruesome but



A typical Torajan village of ark-like houses decorated with patterns and animal figures.

In Indonesia

fascinating.

No one may be buried without such a ceremony. Until a family accumulates the necessary wealth — often a matter of years — the loved one is stored in a spare room at home. It is not uncommon when visiting a Torajan family to find that a deceased relative has been lying upstairs in a coffin for years awaiting burial.

The tombs themselves are renowned as the strangest in the world. The simplest are chiselled into huge stone boulders; most of these go back to the 18th century. More modern ones, shaped like miniature Torajan houses, stand

on stilts in rice fields. Several others lie in deep limestone caves strewn with bones and skulls that have fallen from decayed coffins and inhabited by bats, and spiders the size of a large hand.

Odder yet are the infants' graves lodged in big trees, in the belief that the child's soul will grow with the tree. The most famous tombs are those immured in sheer cliffs, hundreds of feet above ground, so that they cannot be looted of jewellery and other precious objects. These are for persons of the highest caste, who are immortalized in wooden effigies, called *tau-tau*, placed in a sort of balcony built much

lower down on the cliff. There they stand century after century, staring into space as if from the promenade deck of some bizarre ship.

Travellers also come to Torajaland for another reason, to see the unique houses. These two-storey oblong structures look like earth-bound ships, prows high in the air. Their fronts and sides are often marvellously decorated with colourful and elaborate geometrical patterns and animal figures. Buffalo horns, displayed on a vertical column at the front, proclaim a family's status and wealth. Some houses are many hundreds of

years old, their palm-thatched roofs covered with vegetation and the whole structure bleached a venerable grey.

The typical Torajan village is a row of 10 or 12 such houses, faced by a row of small, similarly shaped, rice barns. Viewed from a distance, the houses look like the starting line of a terrestrial regatta, as in a way they should, since the Torajans' explanation for this curious architecture is that their Indo-Chinese ancestors were washed ashore in a storm and eventually moved inland, taking their shipwrecked boats with them as homes. The

"nautical" style has been maintained ever since.

Just a few miles off the narrow tourist track is a tropical land which one can explore with a rare sense of adventure. Rantepao, the main town of Torajaland, is a hub of trails and crude dirt roads that lead in every direction. Walks or treks can be arranged, on one's own or with a local guide, that last from half a day to several weeks. Not only is the landscape spectacular, but one passes through villages and rice fields where one sees scenes of daily life as it has been lived for more than a thousand years.

A trip to Torajaland starts in

Ujung Padang, the capital of the island on the southern coast. The interesting drive north takes about eight hours, allowing for stops along the way for lunch and refreshments. The initial 100 kilometres is a long flat coastal plain covered with rice fields; the road is often in sight of the sea and by the roadside are stalls festooned with large dried fish. Off in the distance lie steep jungle-covered limestone hills, described nearly 150 years ago by the naturalist A.R. Wallace: "Nowhere in (Indonesia) have I seen such gorges, chasms and precipices; in many parts there are vertical or even over-hanging

precipices 500ft or 600ft high, yet completely clothed with a tapestry of vegetation."

About half-way up the peninsula is Parepare, a convenient place for lunch. After that the road, which often runs parallel to the impressive Saddam River, climbs into the Sinjai mountains. The temperature plunges to the low 80s, the vistas become steadily more impressive and the trees and vegetation change. In addition to the ubiquitous banana and coconut tree now appear clove plantations, fields of cassava, teak trees and wild coffee bushes along with several types of pine.

This is an area of subsistence farming and across the vast distances are very few signs of habitation. Little roadside stands sell pink and yellow bags filled with sweets made of brown sugar and peanuts, sacks of salak (a small plant fruit covered in what looks to be brown snake-skin) and coffee.

The road enters Torajaland at the village of Salubarani, marked by an elaborate gate in the shape of a miniature Torajan house. For most travellers the journey ends in Makale, the area's administrative centre, or in Rantepao, with its much wider range of accommodations and restaurants.

Travel Notes

● Hotels: In Ujung Padang, the best hotels are the almost new Marannu City Hotel and the Makassar Golden; Pondok Suanda Indah is a charming colonial style hotel. In Rantepao, the Toraja Cottages and Hotel Misiliana are the most comfortable. There are dozens of simpler and cheaper places to stay. Indonesian Express (071-491 4469) arranges bespoke itineraries.

● When to go: spring and autumn are probably the best times. The monsoon period is from November to March, but even at their worst the rains usually hold off until late afternoon.

● Language and conduct: in Torajaland few people outside the hotels speak English, but guides with adequate English can be found without difficulty. Extremely casual dress is considered unseemly, especially at funeral ceremonies.

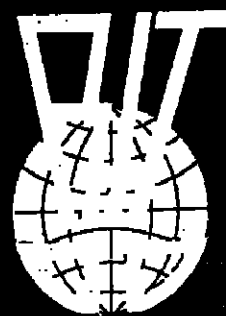
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TRAVEL AND TOURISM

An Arab Times special supplement

Take the malaria jab before flying

By Charles S. Taylor

ATLANTA (UPI) — With the overseas travelling season just around the corner, federal health officials are warning people in the United States planning trips to countries where malaria is widespread to protect them-

selves against infection by using a new drug called mefloquine.

The federal Centers for Disease Control said cases of malaria among US travellers to areas in a wide equatorial belt around the globe has increased three-fold since 1980.

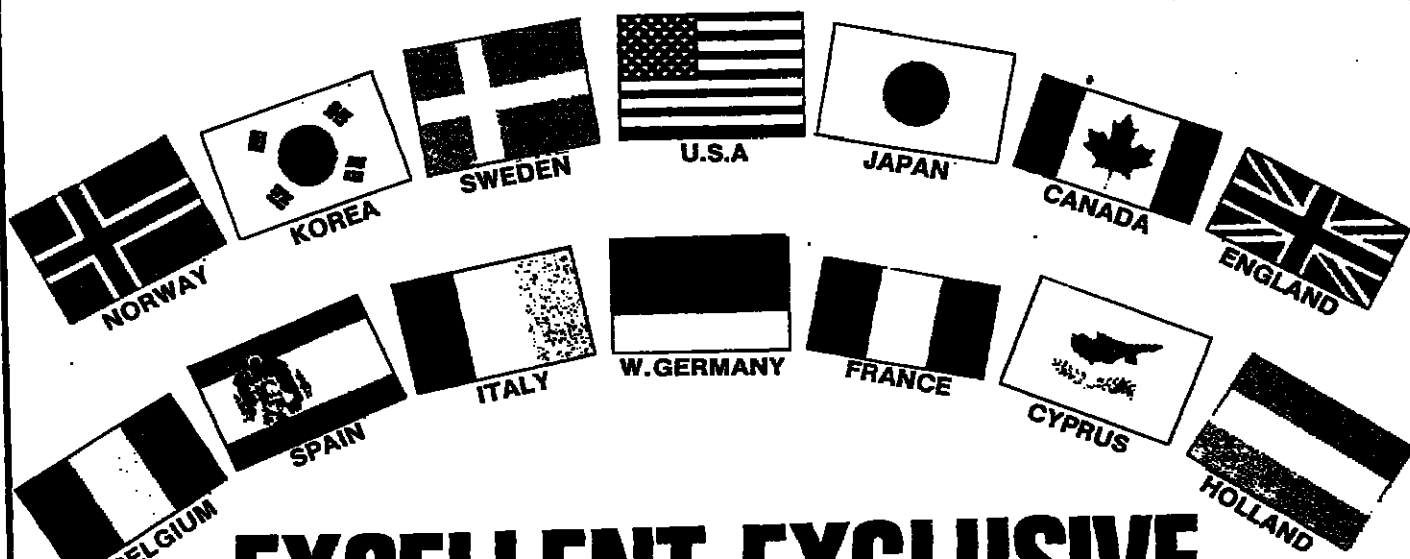
The new drug "is expected to

be highly effective" against malaria infections that have become resistant to other drugs, principally chloroquine, the CDC said.

Mefloquine, sold under the trade name Lariam by Hoffman-La Roche Inc. of Nutley, New

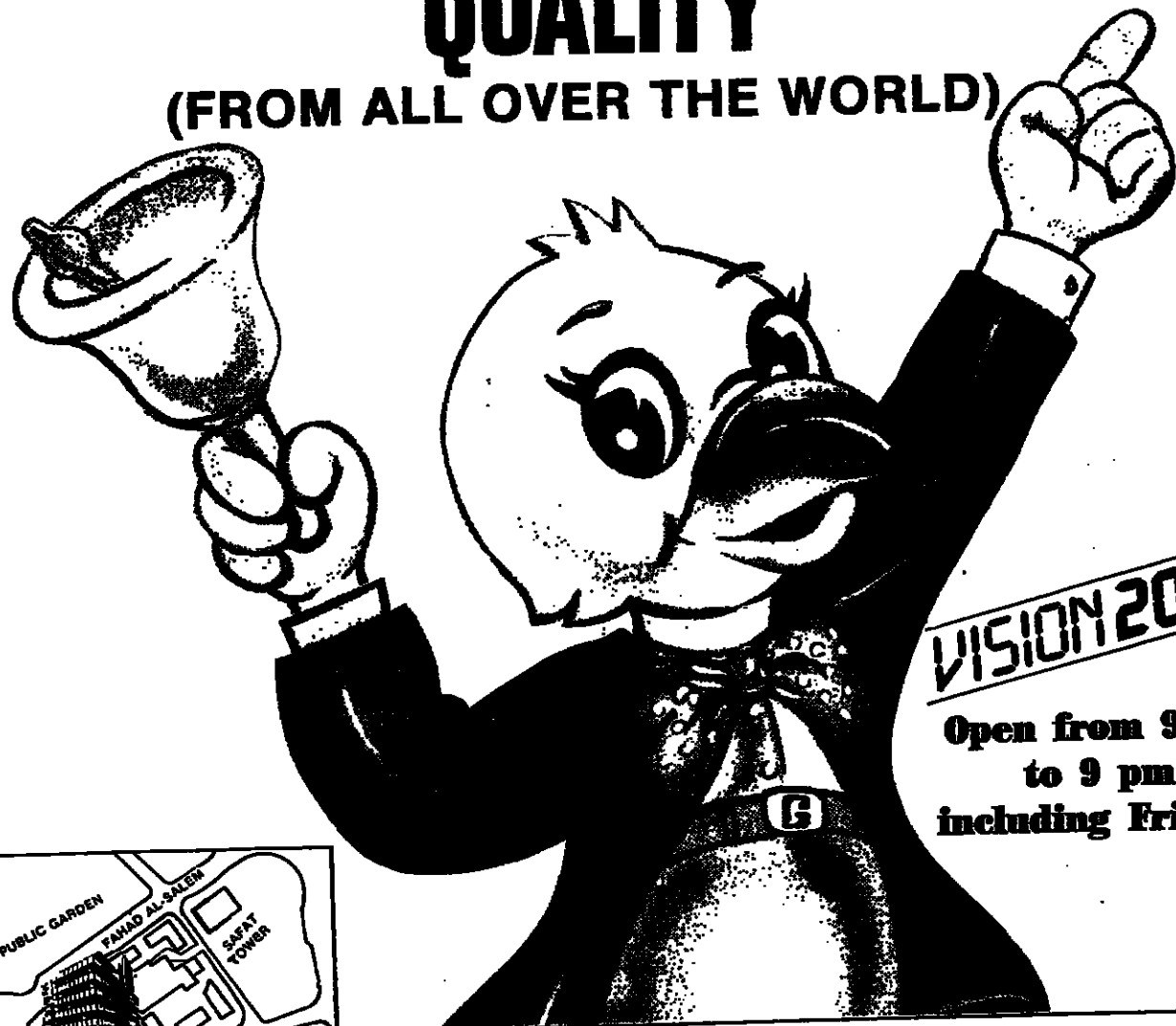
Jersey, was developed jointly.

Until the early 1960s, chloroquine alone was an effective means of preventing malaria in sub-Saharan Africa, Central and South America, the Indian subcontinent and Southeast Asia — all areas where the infectious disease is common.



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Romania Doors open for tourists

By Peter D'Souza
Arab Times staff

JUST a year ago I had no idea what Romania was like. I always used to think that Romania was unexciting for a holiday and that it was a huge military camp serving the Warsaw Pact troops. But my perception changed when I recently visited Romania.

Romania has a peculiar charm, due to its warm hospitality, wide avenues, parks with luxuriant vegetation, new and modern residential districts. Several architectural styles, ranging from Byzantine to neoclassical, from Romanian folk art influences to skyscraper-like buildings, are harmoniously blending. The tourists interest is aroused by a great many museums with collections of high class theatres, by a rich and lofty cultural life, by priceless monuments of history and architecture. The leisure zone of the city, with picturesque forests and lakes, endowed with various tourists facilities, is the favourite recreation site for tourists.

Situated on the same latitude as northern Yugoslavia, Italy, France and the Japanese island of Hokkaido, Romania enjoys the benefit of four seasons a year, which partly accounts for the non-stop tourist movement in recent times. Visitors are enticed by winter snow, the explosive rebirth of nature in the spring, the matchless poetry of the sea and of the mountains in summer, the sweet aroma of a colourful autumn. Romania exhibiting every form of natural beauty features, from Black Sea to 2,544 metres altitude Moldoveanu peak in the Fagaras Mountains, the glacial lakes, the underground glaciers, the dozens of caves with galleries many kilometres long and the mud volcanoes arouse great interest.

One of the most beautiful tourist attractions is Poiana Brasov. Also called "The Sunny Clearing" or "The Pearl of the Carpathians", the Poiana Brasov resort is world-reputed both for its beauty and the modern con-



veniences and entertainment facilities it offers its guests. One Arab visitor who visited Poiana Brasov commented thus, "I think the beauty of Poiana Brasov is the maximum nature can offer mankind."

Located 189 km from Bucharest, the Romanian capital, and only 13 km from Brasov, Poiana Brasov lies at the foot of the Postavaru Massif, 1,020 m. above the Black Sea level. The average temperature in summer is about 17 degrees C and -3 degrees C in winter. The resort is open for 365 days and can accommodate 2,750 people in modern, deluxe and first class hotels, in villas or motels. The range of entertainment facilities is very comprehensive.

Romania welcomes about seven million foreign tourists annually. They have concluded tourist agreements and conventions with 30 countries. Accommodation facilities have been constantly increased during the last ten years. At present 300,000

Romania has a peculiar charm

visitors can be accommodated in the resorts on the Black Sea coast, in the mountain and bathing resorts, and on all towns and districts of tourist interest throughout Romania.

Romania has one third of Europe's mineral waters. Romanian ancestors made good use of health-giving springs 2000 years ago. They were exploited by the Roman empire. The springs were organised on scientific bases around the year 1900 and were modernised during the last few decades. Health resorts are located on the Black Sea coast (Mamaia, Eforie Nord, Mangalia), in the vast grain-growing plains, and in the hilly districts and in the mountain depressions.

Wherever they may be situated, all bathing resorts are used as health resorts. They are recommended in rheumatic affections, diseases of the central and peripheral nervous system, orthopaedic affections, gynaecological affections, affections of the digestive tract, the

cardiovascular system, breathing apparatus, and also in dermatological, endocrinological and urological affections and in nutritional and vocational diseases.

In fifteen of the main tourist resorts, there are hotels equipped with treatment facilities of their own, and everywhere new treatment and control equipment has been introduced. Visitors can spend their time at clubs, sports halls and sports grounds, swimming pools, saunas, bowling and mini-golf alleys, mechanical games, etc.

Along with the usual dishes, special diet food is served under strict medical control. Together with a specific treatment, some original Romanian medicines are recommended, among them are Gerovital, Aslavital and Pell-Amar.

And, now due to recent developments, and a change of government, greater emphasis is being given to developing tourist facilities, health resorts and spas.

By Rakshat Puri

India - a cultural experience

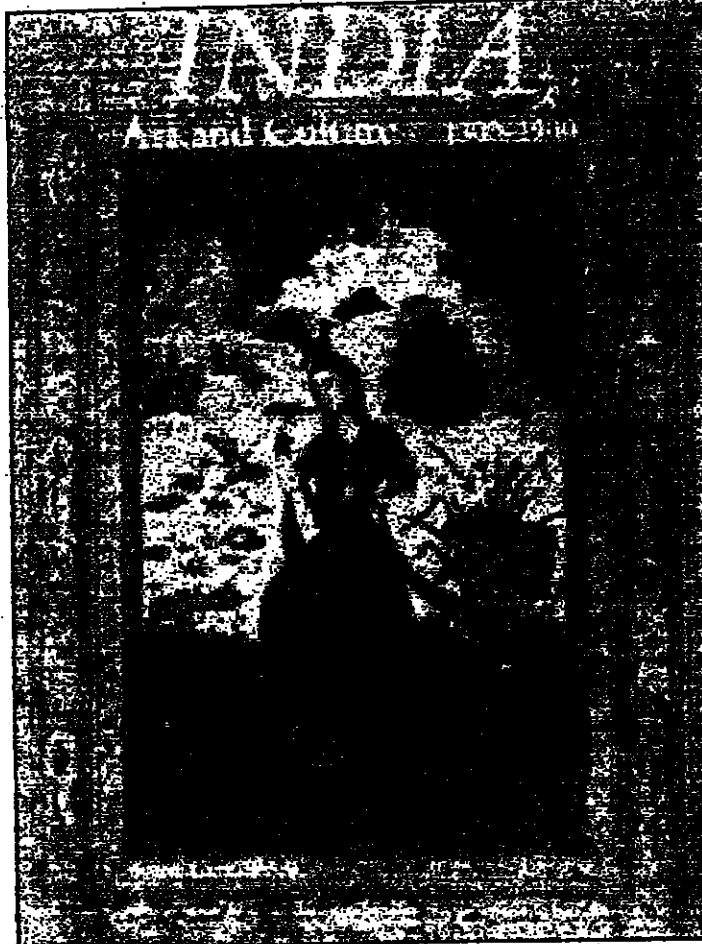
IT IS only when an Indian sees at one go the cultural expression of India in various media, styles, schools and manners, in fashions and forms as these changed and developed down the centuries, absorbing and metamorphosing influences as they came and went — it is only when an Indian sees it all placed together that he is apt to realise the wealth and vastness of his own tradition and of India's contribution to the world's heritage. Cultural awareness provides a person with his sense of social and individual self-identity.

At London's Hayward Gallery, Indian bronzes and other items were put together during the Festival of India in Britain, in 1982, and the truth of this became plain enough. But it was at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York, when an exhibition of Indian art and culture was organised and arranged by Stuart Cary Welch, covering in some detail the period between 1300 AD and 1900 AD, that more appropriate idea of the range of Indian imagination emerged.

The exhibition lasted from September 14, 1985 to January 5, 1986. Simultaneously, in conjunction with the exhibition, a 478-page catalogue was published. *India: Art and Culture 1300-1900*. While but a shadow of the exhibition, the catalogue nevertheless brought home the grandeur and dimension of the exhibition to those who were not able to go to the exhibition itself. The catalogue, with permission from the Metropolitan Museum, was reprinted in 1988 by Grantha Corporation, Middletown, New Jersey, in association with Mapin Publishing Pvt Ltd of Chidambaram, Ahmedabad.

The contents of the volume are organised in chapters that deal with *The Great Tradition, Tribe and Village, The Muslim Courts* (ranging over the Delhi Sultanate, the Mughals and the Sultans of the Deccan), *The Rajput World* (which takes within its ken the Punjab plains and hills), and *The British Period*. It is of course true that what one saw in the exhibition at the Metropolitan Museum of Art in New York and what one sees in the 478 pages of the carefully brought out catalogue is but a minute and essentially inadequate glimpse of culture and way that is India. But it is enough to convey the width, breadth and wisdom the India represents — in the way that the complexities of time and space might be scrutinized in a grain of sand!

What is India? Most ancient peoples, writes Jean Le Mée in the introduction to his translation of the *Rig Veda*, have turned to precious or durable materials such as gold, silver, bronze, marble, onyx, or granite in an attempt to immortalize their achievements; "not so, however,



with the ancient Aryans. They turned to what may seem the most volatile and insubstantial material of all — the spoken word — and out of this bubble or air fashioned a monument which more than thirty, perhaps forty, centuries later stands untouched by time or the elements. For the Pyramids have been eroded by the desert wind, the marble broken by earthquakes, and the gold stolen by robbers, while the *Veda* remains, recited daily by an unbroken chain of generations, travelling like a great wave through the substance of the mind. This is indeed generous praise — and expression of wonder — doubtless warranted.

But the Indian mind in the last thirty or forty centuries did other things besides emitting bubbles of air and uttering memorable words: some of those things, from the last six centuries or so, are collected in the catalogue, and the question re-asserts itself: What is India? Its many (too many) and varied people? Its many languages? Its numerous colours and colour combinations in forms stylized and spontaneous? Its culture of poverty, which has too often been mistaken in the presumptuous West as poverty of culture? Its immense suffering, which was in its art transmuted sometimes to sorrow and to acceptance? Its paradoxes such as rampant cruelty co-existing with spiritual vision of the rarest kind, or a creative tendency in the midst of court intrigues and political instability? Its austerity of expression, exemplified in Panini's

treaties on the principles of grammar to which practically nothing has been added since he wrote it in eighteen octavo pages? The luxuriance of expression, simile heaped on metaphor on image, as in Patanjali's commentary on Panini, in eight hundred octavo pages?

The catalogue provides a sampling of all this — the philosophy that is India, the people that is India, the languages, arts and music that is India, the spiritual concern with time and timelessness that is India. All this is there. The period from 1300 AD was a time when the position of Delhi in the Turko-Persian world was on the way to pre-eminence, a trend that began with Balban's succession to the throne after the intrigues and instability of Razia Begum's favourites. Delhi led the Turko-Persian world in form, design and fashion; artists and craftsmen were attracted to Delhi from Herat, Samarkand, Shiraz and Isfahan. By 1610 AD, Mughal miniature art had emerged distinctly, as is evident from such works as *Squirrels in a Plane Tree* by Abul Hasan and Mansur. India's Classical Age, with its emphasis on Sanskrit, was giving place to the Bhakti movement, notable especially for the rise of poetry and discourse in the commonly spoken languages.

India: Art and Culture (1300-1900) by Stuart Cary Welch. Mapin Publishing Pvt Ltd. Ahmedabad.

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Timeless Africa

On the trail of Karen Blixen

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times staff

I HAD a farm in Africa, at the foot of the Ngong Hills. The equator runs across these highlands, a hundred miles to the north...

Does this ring a bell? Of course it does, these are the opening lines in the book and the movie *Out of Africa* made in 1983 right there at the foot of the Ngong Hills in the very same house that Karen Blixen used to live in. The house is still there and much of its furnishings are original or from the same period. Outside, the Masai, the nomadic, cattle-raising tribe that were the neighbours of Karen's farm have gone. So has the coffee plantation. "It should have never been there," says our driver Lugano. "The climate and the soil are wrong." So they are and it was the coffee crop failure in 1931 and the resulting financial worries that forced Karen out of Kenya, the only Africa she knew and loved so well.

Yet, there is little in and around Karen Blixen's house, some twenty kilometres outside Nairobi, to show that more than half a century has elapsed since she left her African home and friends immortalised in her book first published in 1937.

Thus as you approach it on a quiet week-day morning its lawns and flowers moist and well-tended, its interior in warm semi-darkness, you feel you are stepping into it not another era then at least into a scene from *Out of Africa*.

Karen Blixen is a well-liked person in today's Kenya, at least among the older generation that has known her.

With a good reason. This daughter of a Danish army officer knew no obstacles when it came to helping or defending the Kikuyu, Masai or Somalis. Her generosity, courage and determination came in useful in many of her crusades and won her the respect of friend and foe.

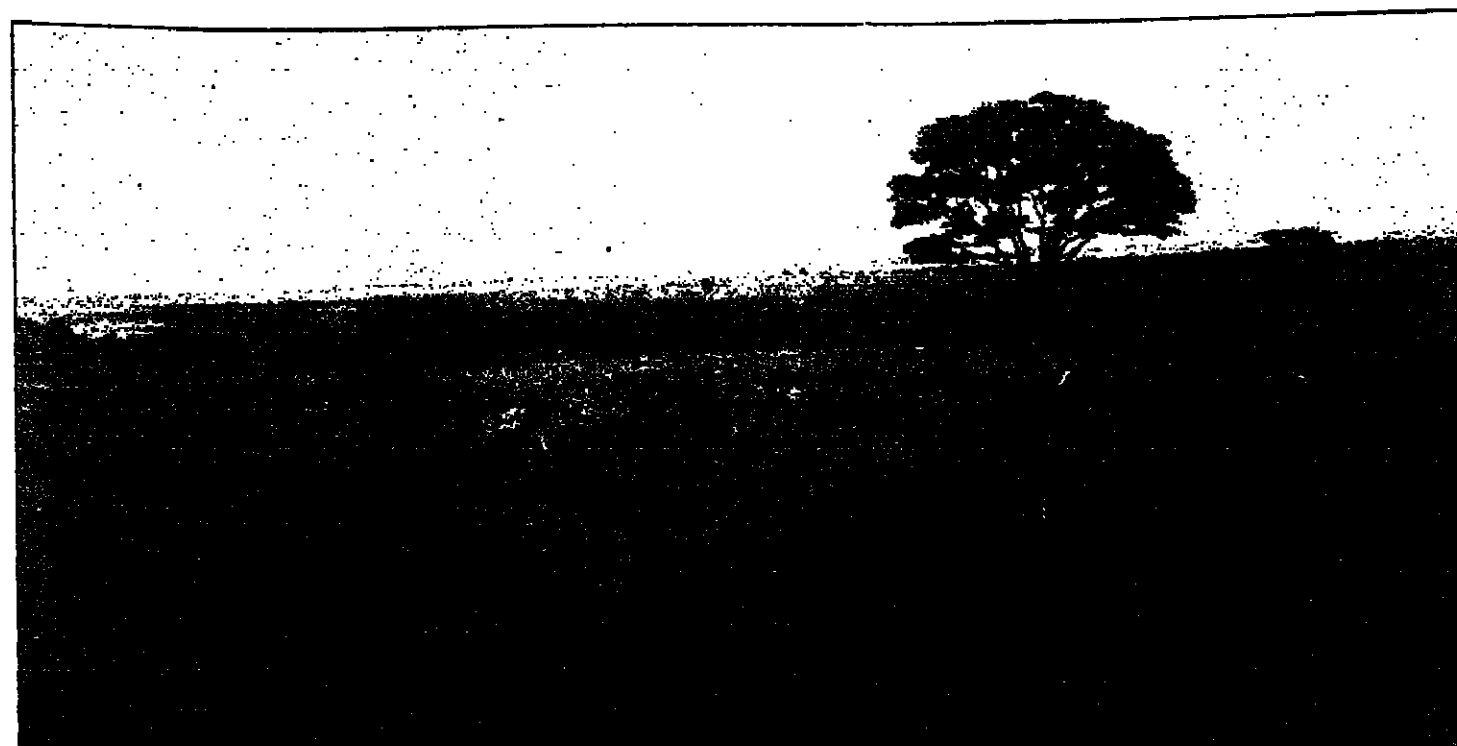
"As for me, from my first weeks in Africa, I had felt a great affection for the natives. The discovery of the dark races was to me a magnificent enlargement of all my world," is how she described the natives occupied in her life.

As casual visitors to her former home drive towards the foot of the Ngong Hills they will have no doubt that they are in the right place. Sign posts giving directions to the Karen market, the Karen Country Club or the Karen College are much in evidence.

Ironically, it was the film that reminded the Kenyan authorities, consumed after the independence in weeding out the reminders of colonial rule, of Karen Blixen's devotion to and love of their country. By the time the filming of *Out of Africa* was over they moved the principal of the nearby Karen College out of the house and turned it into a museum.

The Kenyans, Lugano tells me, liked the movie for more than one reason. They liked the way the black Kenyans were portrayed. But also the Kenyans, who not surprisingly are sensitive to racial discrimination, were satisfied that the movie producer applied the same pay scale for all the extras, be they black or white, foreign or local. This was not the case when *White Mischief* or the *Kitchen Toto* were filmed, assured me Lugano who was the driver for the *Out of Africa* camera crew and who fleetingly appeared in it as a policeman. As in life so in death Karen Blixen was caring and fair, says the Kenyans.

The house is silent and comfortable. It looks like time has stopped, the scene was frozen way back at the beginning of the century. The study is dark, an impression enhanced by the dark brown furniture with the only light coming from a desk lamp. I peer at the photograph on the wall and am almost surprised to see that Karen Blixen is not Meryl Streep, who played her in the movie. I hope I am forgiven



The experience is equally exciting today as it was in Blixen's time.

for conjuring up a picture of Streep whenever I think of Blixen. It is understandable and after all not that wrong—for had it not been for Meryl Streep's interpretation, many people throughout the world would have not heard of that larger-than-life person, Karen Blixen.

In the sitting room the original bookshelf, a gift from her friend and lover Denys Finch-Hatton, is still there filled with the books brought there when the shooting began. The sitting room is linked through a door with the bedroom, furnished with period furniture with a safari outfit Meryl Streep wore in the film casually thrown over a chair. Before leaving Kenya, Karen gave her own bed to her godson, now an elderly man living in Naivasha, a town nesting on the border of the lake of the same name, a long-time resort for the townsfolk from Nairobi. He bequeathed the bed to the Karen museum.

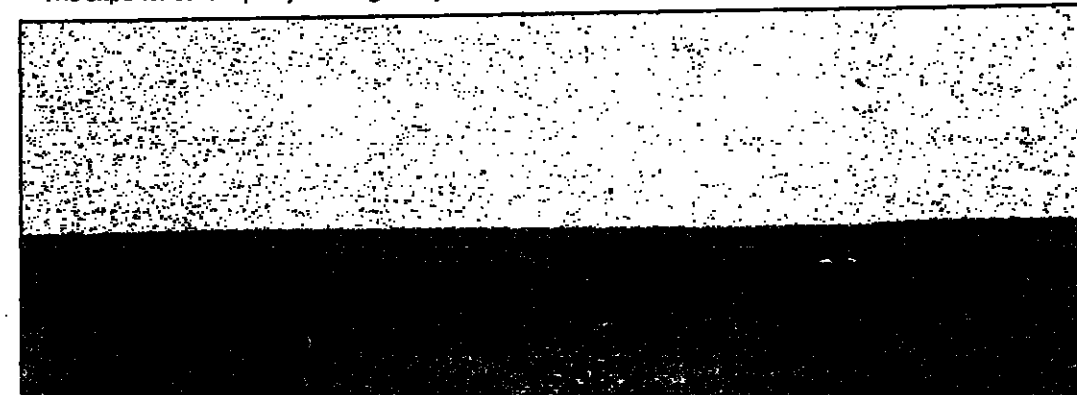
A big surprise is the primitive bathroom. Although, perhaps, one should be surprised that there was a bathroom, at the time, in the house at all. One good thing about it is that it is original, both the tin tub and the wooden commode that served as a toilet.

Adjacent to the sitting room is the dining room with its period furniture and china. On the walls are reproductions of the portraits painted by Karen. One entitled Kikuyu Ndito is a picture, in ochre, orange and brown tones, of a beautiful Kikuyu girl, in her finery, that was chosen for the cover of the Penguin edition of her book "Out of Africa". The other is the portrait of Farah's younger brother, Farah, a proud and loyal Somali was her servant, companion and adviser to the last day of her stay in Africa.

Karen's dining room looks west. It has three long windows open onto the paved terrace and the lawn. This terrace held a central place in Karen's relationship with the natives. Little boys shepherding herds of goats and sheep would leave their animals to graze on the lawn and edge their way towards the terrace to look at the wonder of wonders—an old German cuckoo-clock. The Kyama, a council of village elders, would hold their never ending sessions there asking her to dispense justice when ill-luck befell them. It is on the terrace and the adjacent lawn that the big Kikuyu chief Kinsajui, in his gorgeous fur cloak, would pass an occasional afternoon leisurely smoking her cigars and listening to the stories of the happenings on the farm.

Today the terrace is empty but for the two mill-stones that served as tables. She got them from her mill after two Indians, who were leasing the mill to grind mealie for the Kikuyu, were killed in an incident which remained a mystery.

Beyond the lawn is a forest and from there onwards the vast expanses of the Masai rangeland.



A few minutes walk from the house was a field where Denys Finch-Hatton landed his planes and from there they took off on their exhilarating flights over African highlands. Karen was so mesmerised with the African landscape seen from above that years later she wrote: "The language is short of words for the experience of flying.... You may fly low enough to see the animals on the plains and to feel towards them as God did when

he had just created them, and before he commissioned Adam to give them names."

Like in the 1920s flying over the national parks, lakes and hills is equally exciting today. Last spring at the beginning of the rainy season I was in a group of eight who flew in a light aircraft on roughly the same route that Karen and Denys covered over the Rift Valley, Lake Naivasha and Hell's Gate Park. The latter is better known for its landscape than wildlife and derives its name from numerous hot springs and steam jets that dot the area.

The Rift Valley, which cuts 65 to 100 km wide canyon through the country is a splendid sight from an aircraft, the only proper way to see it.

As we left Hell's Gate behind us we flew over the planes towards Nairobi. Down below we could see giraffes, antelopes, eland and gazelles roaming.



Karen Blixen's home.

One startling fact in Karen's life was the ease with which she drew her gun and shot the animals. This is almost incompatible with the image of a woman who was known to be an animal lover. But in those days, unlike today, the wild life was flourishing and she killed animals either because they were a threat or for food. Being a good shot Karen was often called by the Masai or Kikuyu to kill a lion that attacked their cattle.

No matter how many lions and zebras she may have killed, Karen was undoubtedly attached to her animals be they her oxen or antelopes. This is best illustrated in her "relationship" with Lulu, the gazelle she adopted and tamed. It is no coincidence that some of the most poetic and nostalgic passages in her book are associated with thoughts of Lulu and other animals.

"If I know a song of Africa—I thought—of the giraffe, and the African new moon lying on her back, of the ploughs in the fields, and the sweaty faces of the coffee-pickers, does Africa know a song of me. Would... the children invent a game in which my name was... or would the eagles of Ngong look out for me?"

If she sought to leave an indelible trail, Karen should have had no fear, she succeeded splendidly.



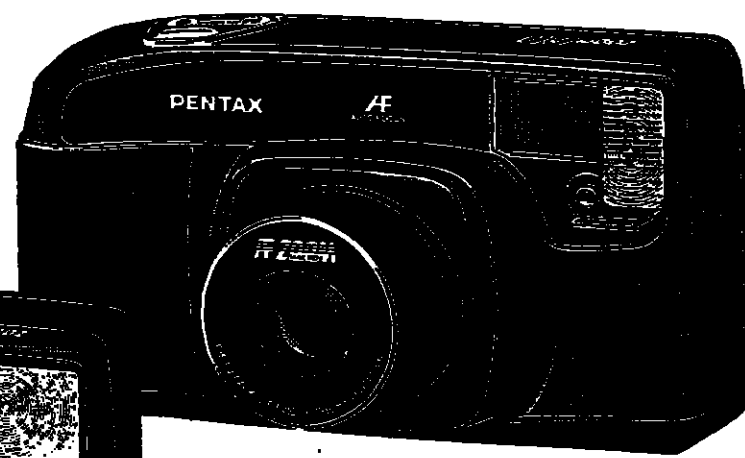
The bookshelves are still in place.

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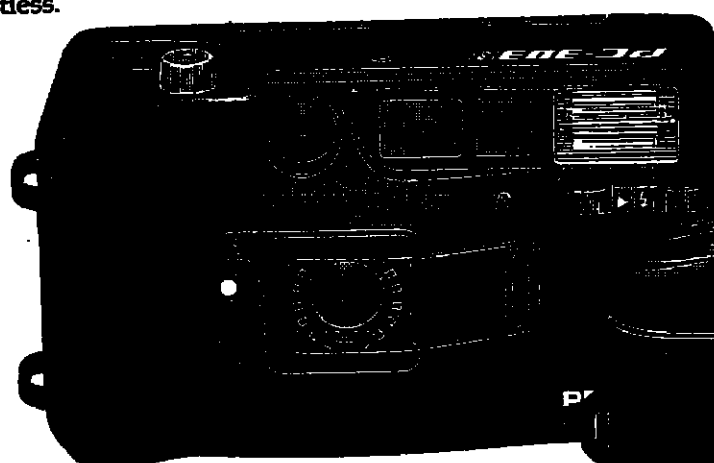
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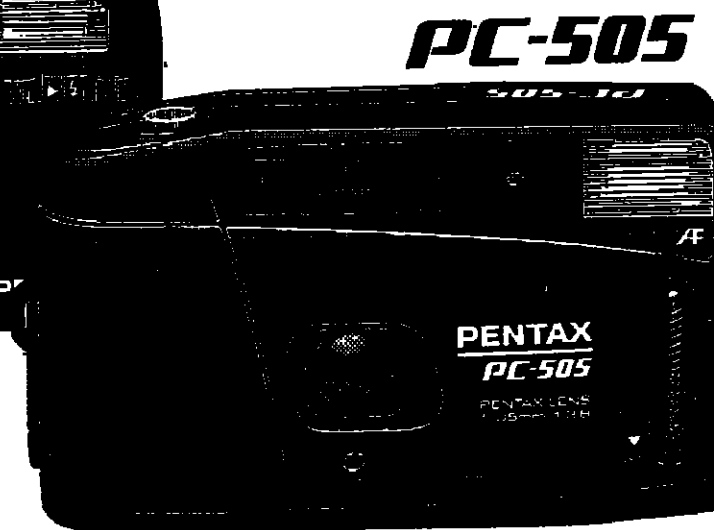
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The toilet in Blixen's home.

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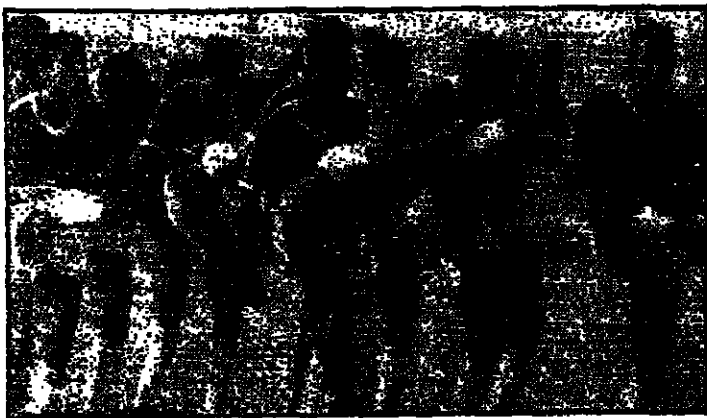
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The Egyptians during a training session. (Reuters wirephoto)

World Cup statistics

ROME, June 8. (AP): Antonio Carbajal probably has the most World Cup statistics.

Mexico's former long-time goalie played in five World Cups, 104 international matches and won three Mexican championships. But as the World Cup, he is remembered simply as the man who lost the most tournament matches.

Carbajal is the loser in a numbers game that always accompanies the World Cup. He played in 11 cup matches and was on the losing side in eight while conceding 25 goals. And numbers never lie, or so the saying goes. Perhaps they just mislead.

Wolfgang Overath never basked in the limelight that now shines on Argentina's Diego Maradona. However, statistics show that the West German is the winningest player in World Cup history. He only scored three goals in three World Cups, but West Germany won 15 of the 19 matches he played.

In an increasingly number-crunching world, soccer's most prestigious tournament provides sports statisticians with a usually rich bounty.

Consider the statistical gold mine at this year's tournament, where 528 players on 24 teams will contest 52 matches in 31 days. To get the 24 finalists, 110 nations played 312 qualifying matches and scored 732 goals.

Although the tournament began only today, statisticians have been hard at work for months generating those little known facts and figures.

Organizers say that so far they have sold 92 per cent of the 2.6 million tickets available for the matches in 12 Italian cities. There will be at least 104 hours of live television broadcasts of the games over 148 networks to viewers in 118 countries.

The number of estimated viewers for the games is staggering. Organizers who at first predicted 15 billion now casually kick about a figure of 25 billion. Never mind that the planet's human population is only about 5 billion. The estimates are cumulative.

Die-hard fans will want to know there are 36 international referees and five Italian lineemen. Fans afraid of dying may want to know there will be a total of 111 doctors, 135 nurses, 677 stretcher-bearers and 89 ambulances on duty at the 12 stadiums.

The oldest player in this year's tournament is England's 40-year-old Peter Shilton. The youngest is 20-year-old Brazil's Roy of Holland, who already is three years older than Pele when he helped Brazil win the title in 1958. Argentina's Ricardo Bochini at 42 became the oldest player on a championship team when his country won in 1986.

The United States, with an average age of 24.2, has the youngest team at the World Cup finals and Ireland the oldest with an average age of 28.9.

And so it goes. Soccer statisticians also can tell you that the most common surname, shared by six players on the United Arab Emirates team, is Mubarak. The least common may be subject to hot debate, but Mubarak is so popular that one Emirates player has it for both his first and last name.

The numbers also show the highest margin of victory in World Cup play is nine goals, a feat accomplished by two teams in three games. Hungary beat El Salvador 10-1 in 1982 and South Korea 9-0 in 1954. Yugoslavia defeated Zaire 9-0 in 1974.

Louis Laurent scored the first World Cup goal on July 13, 1930, when France beat Mexico 4-0 in Montevideo. England's Bryan Robson scored the fastest goal, tallying 27 seconds into a match against France on June 15, 1982.

Naturally not even the number crunchers can tell you who will score the first goal in Italy. But they can tell you that the first scorers in each of the six first-round groups will receive 700 bottles of selected, aged Abruzzo wine from the region's wine sellers.

Shubair aims for career in Europe

PALERMO, June 8. (Reuters): Egyptian goalkeeper Ahmed Shubair is planning to use the World Cup finals as a passport to a career in one of European soccer's top professional leagues.

The 30-year-old now combines goalkeeping duties with running his own marble and cement firm but knows that good performances at the tournament starting today could bring him a lucrative offer to pack his bags and join a European club.

"The World Cup is important for me to make a name in Europe but it is more important for the team to do well," he said.

Egypt, appearing in the finals for the first time in 56 years, are rated rank outsiders in Group F against

the Netherlands, England and Ireland but Shubair believes they will give a good account of themselves.

"We have prepared very hard and played around 12 internationals this year. I know we have a very good defence and I'm confident in them," he said.

Egypt's defence is one of their strong points, having been breached only twice in eight qualifiers. Shubair, a tall, wiry figure, deserves much of the credit for that record.

Described by one Egyptian soccer writer as "the only man the team cannot afford to be without in Italy," he has already attracted the attention of European clubs.

Austria take on Italy

Polster one of the best: Vicini



Toni Polster

ROME, June 8. (Reuters): Austria's young footballers face the might of the World Cup's most fancied team tomorrow — and the antipathy of a huge crowd hungry for Italian victory.

Austrian coach Josef Hickersberger, who has studied Italian form minutely in the run-up to the first round clash, this week played his squad a video of Italy's defeat by the Soviet Union in the semifinals of the European championship two years ago.

"I played them the tape to reduce the awe they feel for the Italian team," he said.

But it is not only the Austrians who will be under pressure in Rome's Olympic Stadium. Italy, chasing a record fourth title, have been in less than sparkling form in recent friendly matches — tight as ever in defence but lacking the goal touch.

Fans in this soccer-mad nation, where the build-up to the finals has reached fever-pitch, will not forgive Italian failure.

"We will play to win because I

would like a good start," Italian manager Azeglio Vicini said.

"But the fans must remember that in Spain (in 1982) we drew all our first round matches and went on to win."

Italy's chief fear is the attacking skills of Toni Polster, supported up front by either Andreas Ogris or Gerhard Rodax.

Polster scored 33 goals for his Spanish club Sevilla last season and is well aware of the strengths and weaknesses of the Italians after playing for Torino.

"I consider him one of the best strikers in Europe," Vicini said. "He has improved a lot this year."

At 26, Polster is one of the veterans of the Austrian squad, but Hickersberger says their relative lack of experience is countered by their enthusiasm.

"They are hungry for the ball ... and they recover quickly after matches," he said.

"Our recent run of good results has been just what was needed to give them confidence,"

he added.

Austria beat European champions the Netherlands 3-2 in Vienna last week. In May they drew 1-1 with Argentina and in March they beat Spain 3-2 in Malaga.

But at their last meeting in Vienna in March 1989, Italy's famous defence locked out the Austrians and the visitors came home with a 1-0 victory.

Italy can also rely on the skills of one of the world's greatest sweepers in AC Milan captain Franco Baresi.

Up front Italy's hopes rest with Sampdoria's Gianluca Vialli. Although the 25-year-old has been suffering from a painful cold muscle, he has been declared fit and is keen to prove himself after a year-long international goal drought.

Hickersberger, though playing his tactical cards close to his chest, is likely to use Robert Peci to mark Vialli. Kickoff Saturday: 10 pm (Kuwait time).

Romania aim to overcome injury crisis

BARI, June 8. (Reuters): Romanian manager Emerich Jenei hopes his country's revolution will inspire his team to overcome an injury crisis in their first Group B World Cup match against the Soviet Union tomorrow.

Forward Florin Raducioiu and midfielder Ioan Sabau are doubtful starters, first choice defenders Dan Petrescu and Stefan Iovan are already out of the tournament with injuries and star midfielder Gheorghe Hagi is suspended for the first match.

The Soviets will be without midfielder Alexei Mikhailichenko but they say they have no injury problems and look strong contenders in a group that also includes Argentina and Cameroon.

But Jenei says the revolution last December that toppled communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu has transformed his players for Romania's first appearance in the World Cup finals since 1970.

"Since the revolution morale is 100 per cent better, the mental attitude for life and the game is better and you can expect to see that in the first match," Jenei said in the southern Italian city of Bari where tomorrow's match takes place.

"The power of the team is collectively. Hagi is not going to play. But it's the same problem as (Soviet coach Valery) Lobanovsky faces because Mikhailichenko cannot play."

Jenei is still looking for someone to fill the gap left by Hagi, the "Maradona of the Carpathians." Raducioiu has twisted his left ankle and is less likely to play than Sabau who has strained a leg muscle.

Lobanovsky also has a hole to fill in midfield. Mikhailichenko, injured against Israel last month, was his team's powerhouse and will miss the whole tournament.

"He was a pillar of the team but we still aim to produce something surprising so that our team can do as well as it did in the European championship finals in 1988," he said.

Kickoff Saturday: 6 pm Kuwait time.



Colombia's Carlos Valderrama does stretching exercises during practice. (Reuters wirephoto)

Colombia seek win over UAE in opener

BOLOGNA, June 8. (Reuters): Colombia, fielding their best team in history according to coach Francisco Maturana, can gain an important psychological advantage by beating World Cup debutants the United Arab Emirates in tomorrow's opening Group D game.

With top scorer Arnoldo Iguaran training again after thigh injury and several key defenders also back in shape, Colombia are reasonably confident of reaching the second round.

"We've done some very useful work in training," said goalkeeper Rene Higuita. "I don't think there'll be any problems getting through the first round."

Two points from tomorrow's match would give the Colombians confidence going into their second game, against the individually brilliant but often collectively flawed Yugoslavs.

Yugoslavia open against twice champions West Germany on Sunday and trainer Ivica Osim worries that losing that match would make his players nervous about the Colombia game in a week's time.

"Colombia have a very good team and naturally they will have a big psychological advantage if they win their first match as expected," Osim said.

The UAE, who under a long period of Brazilian coaching have adopted South American style possession soccer, are awaiting a doctor's report on their captain Mubarak Ghanim who had a knee operation in London two weeks ago.

"He is doing some jogging and weightlifting but still has to be fully tested," said Brazilian coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, adding that he expected to hear the results by Friday.

Mubarak, 26, has an important partnership in the UAE defence with his younger brother, Khalil Ghanim, but if the captain is not fit Parreira will use the less experienced Youssef Hussain Mohamed in his place.

The Emirates are also feeling the absence of star midfielder Abdul Rezzak Ibrahim, suspended by FIFA for a year after a scuffle with a Belgian player during a military match.

"It is a big loss," said Parreira. "It is not like in other teams where there are no problems to pick a squad of 22. With us the replacements are just not up to the same standard." Kickoff: 10 pm (Kuwait time)

Strong Czechs take Americans seriously

FLORENCE, June 8. (Reuters): Czechoslovakia will be aware that the United States have no reputation to protect and therefore nothing to lose when they clash in the opening World Cup Group A match on Sunday.

Czechoslovak coach Jozef Venglos said: "We respect the American side. We have watched them a lot and we know them very well. It would be a big mistake to underestimate them."

On paper the Americans, regarded as rank outsiders in their first appearance in the finals for 40 years, stand no chance against a Czechoslovak side packed with players with international experience at club and national level.

The Americans have rarely managed to compete with top-class sides in their build-up to Italy, but their coach Bob Gansler believes his side will not be overcome by their first match of the competition and their youth will be a major advantage.

"We are going to be nervous but I reckon there will be plenty of butterflies in the other changing room too," Gansler said.

"The point is this 40-year thing doesn't mean anything to my guys. Most of them have qualified for the World Cup at their very first attempt. So there

is no sense of failure from the past for them."

The Czechoslovaks are a very strong defensive side, marshalled by their versatile libero Jozef Chovanec.

But with tougher games to come against hosts Italy and Austria, they know they will have to show their attacking qualities and secure a convincing victory to improve their chances of reaching the second round.

"The first game of the tournament is always very important," Venglos said at his team's hotel in the small town of Montecatini, west of Florence.

"We are determined we will have the right mental attitude and be motivated to win."

The Americans' key players are goalkeeper Tony Meola and captain Mike Windischmann, who are certain to be kept busy on Sunday.

The US have kept a low profile in the past week in their secluded camp at the west coast resort of Terrina. But they have looked relaxed despite the presence of heavily-armed police.

"There is a relaxed mood here. We can't afford to be overwhelmed," Windischmann said. "On our day we can compete with anyone." Kickoff Sunday: 6 pm (Kuwait time)

World Cup

Brazilian TV

RIO DE JANEIRO, June 8. (Reuters): The most important event in the world last week was not the superpower summit, not on Brazilian television anyway. For across the world in Asti, Italy, the Brazil World Cup soccer squad was in training. In a week when the team did not even play a match, George Bush and Mikhail Gorbachev received less than half the coverage of Brazil's soccer superstars.

Cup security

GENOA, June 8. (Reuters): Police yesterday banked on an elaborate security operation to keep the ancient city of Genoa free of spectator violence at the World Cup.

Month's grace

ROME, June 8. (Reuters): Squatters and rent dodgers in Rome are enjoying a month's grace before being thrown out of their homes — thanks to the World Cup.

Irish fan

Palermo, June 8. (Reuters): Irish soccer fan Gerard Murphy is mixing pleasure with pleasure. He is getting married in Italy tomorrow and taking his bride to Ireland's opening World Cup match against England.

Stadium cleared

ROME, June 8. (Reuters): Italy's Interior Minister overrode objections from his own safety inspectors yesterday for the second time this week and cleared a World Cup stadium as fit for use during the finals.

Yugoslav fan

SASSUOLO, Italy, June 8. (Reuters): Yugoslav fan Dan Tana spent around \$30,000 and made eight transatlantic trips to watch his beloved national team qualify for the World Cup finals.

Ostolaza injury

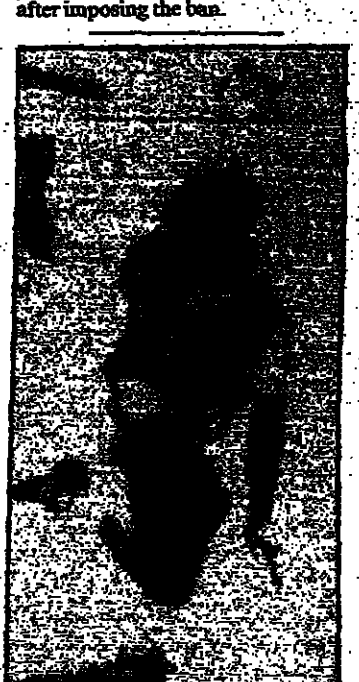
VERONA, June 8. (Reuters): Uruguay midfielder Santiago Ostolaza, sidelined for the past two weeks with a suspected muscle strain, may be dogged by a psychosomatic problem, coach Oscar Washington Tabarez said yesterday.

Czech coach

MONTECATINI, Italy, June 8. (Reuters): Czechoslovak coach Jozef Venglos said yesterday that he had reached no decision about his post-World Cup future.

Decision reversed

ROME, June 8. (Reuters): Fifa reversed its decision to suspend Greece from all international soccer competitions on Wednesday just 24 hours after imposing the ban.



Dutch captain

Dutch World Cup team captain Ruud Geul heads a high ball during training yesterday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Birthday present

CAGLIARI, June 8. (Reuters): England midfielder David Platt is hoping for the best birthday present of his life on Sunday — a place in the side for Monday's opening World Cup Group F clash with Ireland.

Stiff challenge

GARDA, Italy, June 8. (Reuters): World Cup minnows South Korea have set themselves a stiff challenge — a win and two draws against Group E opponents Belgium, Uruguay and Spain.

Cup referees

ROME, June 8. (Reuters): Referees, potentially the most unpopular men at the World Cup, are being guarded around the clock by armed police in Italy's blanket security drive.

Belgian player

VERONA, June 8. (Reuters): Veteran Belgian international Jan Ceulemans said yesterday he might have to sit out the World Cup finals because the team were playing well without him.

Alcohol banned

BARI, June 8. (Reuters): The sale of alcohol has been banned in the southern city of Bari for tomorrow's Group B World Cup match between the Soviet Union and Romania.

Warm-up match

BRUSSELS, June 8. (Reuters): Belgium drew 1-1 with Poland on Wednesday in their last warm-up match before meeting South Korea in the World Cup soccer finals next Tuesday.

English striker

CAGLIARI, June 8. (Reuters): Striker Steve Bull, who plays for second Division Wolveshampton, in the English League, said on Wednesday that he was not interested in a transfer to an Italian club.

Brazil set to take on Sweden



Brazil's Jorginho works out during a training session. (Reuters wirephoto)

TURIN, June 8. (Reuters): New-look Brazil, bidding for their first World Cup victory in 20 years, open their campaign on Sunday against Sweden who are unbeaten in the two sides' last four meetings.

"The Swedes are technically sound, extremely fit and have a good record against us," said manager Sebastiao Lazaroni who last year took the unprecedented step of adding a defensive libero to Brazil's customary attacking formation.

Brushing off criticism from soccer purists in his own country, Lazaroni insists the team must learn from the Europeans if they are ever to win the Cup for a record fourth time.

"We will attack when we have the ball, but when we don't have it we must learn to defend," he told reporters at Brazil's training camp at nearby Asti.

Italy-based exiles Careca and Muller look certain to lead the attack against the tough-tackling Swedes with the more fragile Bebeto on the bench.

Dunga, the midfield ball-winner of the fluid 3-5-2 formation, is doubtful because of a leg strain and is likely to be replaced by the more aggressive Silas.

Sweden also have injury worries and their defence could be badly weakened by the absence of veteran Glenn Hysen, who has not played for over a month because of a nagging

cal injury.

"Apart from Glenn, all our players are fine and we feel confident about the Brazil match," manager Olle Nordin said after arriving at Sweden's base near Genoa where Scotland and Costa Rica will play their Group C match on Monday.

Young striker Tomas Brodin, who has scored four goals in two warm-up matches, could play against the Brazilians in an attempt to sharpen Sweden's often goal-shy attack.

"At the start of this year I didn't even dream of playing in the World Cup and now I am hoping to make the team against the likes of Brazil," Brodin, 20, said.

His front-running partner will be Mats Magnusson, often criticised in Sweden for failing to reproduce his Benfica goalscoring form for the national side.

"It doesn't matter who scores as long as the ball goes in the net," said Magnusson, whose strength in the air and clever positional play could worry the Brazilian defence.

Sweden have won or drawn their last four matches with Brazil and a draw would probably suit both teams, leaving the final standing of the group to be decided in the easier matches that remain.

The weather looks likely to be kind to the Swedes as it has been cool and rainy all week. Kickoff Sunday: 10 pm (Kuwait time)

Lebanon swept by Cup fever

BEIRUT, June 8. (Reuters): World Cup fever is sweeping Lebanon, offering a month of respite from civil war as gunmen turn to the soccer field from the battlefield.

Flags of nations taking part in the competition opening in Italy today flutter alongside the emblems of Lebanese factions from shell-pocked buildings and shattered shop windows.

Convoys of cars honk their way through rubble-strewn streets with fans of rival soccer nations waving and cheering.

"A Great British football manager once said: People who say football is a matter of life and death are fools. It is much more serious than that," said Nabil Fakhani, a supermarket manager in Muslim west Beirut.

"In Lebanon, his words could never be more accurate. For many Lebanese, the game of football symbolises life, in its thrills and



A vendor in Beirut offers flags of participating nations for sale. (Reuters wirephoto)

agonies," he added.

Posters of soccer superstars are glued to walls, in some places close to pictures of gunmen killed in 15 years of civil war.

"You might not take sides in the Lebanese conflict, but you have to be either with West Germany, Holland, Italy, Brazil or Argentina in the World Cup," said Elie Hayek, a supporter of Italy and resident of the devast-

lated Ain El Roumaneh area. Advertisers and sponsors are as excited as the fans, offering them promotion chances in a country suffering from a soaring inflation.

Local television stations compete in drawing spectators and advertisers by broadcasting special World Cup programmes and competitions. Two stations plan live coverage of most of the Cup's 52 matches.

Euro-soccer United and Villa get entry forms

LONDON, June 8. (Reuters): English clubs Manchester United and Aston Villa have been invited to enter next season's European Cup Winners' and UEFA Cup competitions, the English Football Association (FA) said yesterday.

The FA requested the entry forms from Uefa last month and have now passed them on to the two clubs in a move described by an FA spokesman as "as encouraging as you can get."

The forms must be returned to the game's governing body in Europe by June 30, which should mean they will be at Uefa headquarters in time for the preliminary round draws.

FA spokesman David Barber said yesterday: "It is not out and dried yet. We still have to keep our fingers crossed that there is no trouble from English fans at the World Cup."

"But when we asked Uefa for the forms, the first time we have done this in four years, they sent them back to us without any query. Nothing is guaranteed, but this is as encouraging as you can get."

Significantly, League champions Liverpool were not sent entry forms for the European Cup.

Tragedy

The ban on English clubs in the three European club competitions followed the Hysel tragedy involving Liverpool fans and part of Uefa's verdict was to keep Liverpool out of Europe for an extra three years.

Liverpool will be hoping that should United and Villa compete in Europe next season, and there is no trouble from English fans, they will have their three-year extra ban reduced and become eligible for entry into one of the competitions for 1991-92.

Barber added: "In the previous years we did not bother to request entry forms from Uefa. This year we felt we had a better chance of getting some of our clubs accepted so we asked for the entry forms."

"That is the only change really, that we have requested the forms and passed them on as we used to do before 1985. But obviously everyone concerned is hoping that there will be no trouble in Italy and that Uefa will accept the entries and put the two clubs into the draws."

Lewis wins 100m race

HOUSTON, Texas, June 8. (Reuters): Olympic star Carl Lewis was a half-second off his world record last night as he won a 100-metre race in 10.42 seconds in his first competition in almost nine months.

"He didn't look like someone who was ready to compete in the national championships," said a coach who watched the low-key meeting at Rice University in Houston.

The six-time Olympic champion has missed several months' training this winter while working on his biography and has said he is not ready for the US Championships next week.

Joe Douglas, Lewis' business manager, said on Wednesday that Lewis was considering a proposal to take one long jump or run preliminary race at the championships in Norwalk, California as a means of qualifying for the Goodwill Games in Seattle in July.

A final decision is not expected before early next week, but a friend of Lewis said he was not likely to compete.

Lewis and his coach, Tom Tellez, previously had said Lewis had missed too much training on his biography to compete at the national championships. But Douglas said the latest offer was being seriously considered.

First Division Swindon demoted to Third Division

LONDON, June 8. (Reuters): English League club Swindon Town were demoted to the Third Division for financial irregularities yesterday only 10 days after clinching First Division soccer for the first time in their history.

The news was announced by English Football League secretary David Dent

after eight hours of inquiry by a three-man commission.

Swindon chairman Gary Herbert pleaded guilty on behalf to 36 charges brought by the league, 35 of them dealing with irregular payments to eight players going back to 1985.

Herbert looked stunned and said:

"We are all devastated but we must keep calm. This has happened and we must face up to it."

Swindon are considering an appeal. It is only the third time in English soccer history a League club has been demoted. Peterborough United and Port Vale were also relegated, again

for irregular payments to players.

Last month Swindon won promotion to the First Division with a 1-0 victory at Wembley in the Second Division playoffs final against Sunderland.

The club now face a fight to keep manager Ossie Ardiles and the bulk of

the first team.

The League has to decide who replaces Swindon in the First Division and who makes way in the third.

It was previous manager Lou Macari who set Swindon on the road to success before his move to West Ham in July last year.

But he and ex-chairman Brian Hillier have since been found guilty of betting on Swindon in 1988 to lose a Cup tie.

The demotion will be a heavy blow to Ardiles, currently on a six-week holiday in Argentina.

Portland edge Detroit

Trail Blazers tie series



Trail Blazers' Terry Porter (left) and Wayne Cooper celebrate their team's victory. (Reuters wirephoto)

AUBURN HILLS, Michigan, June 8. (AP): Clyde Drexler's two free throws with 2.1 seconds left last night climaxed a dramatic series of turnarounds in overtime and gave the Portland Trail Blazers a 106-105 victory over the Detroit Pistons in the NBA finals at 1-1.

Portland survived an onslaught of six 3-pointers by Detroit's Bill Laimbeer, including three in the first overtime in the championship series since 1984.

There were three lead changes in the final 9.6 seconds.

Buck Williams gave the Trail Blazers a 104-102 lead with two free throws before Laimbeer, who scored 26 points came back with his sixth 3-point field goal with 4.1 seconds remaining for a 105-104 Pistons lead.

Dennis Rodman then fouled Drexler with 2.1 seconds left and he swished both to give him 33

points for the game.

The Trail Blazers had a foul to give and they used it with 1.2 seconds remaining forcing another inbound play by the Pistons. Detroit's James Edwards, who scored 26 points missed a hurried baseline shot as time expired.

The best-of-7 series moves to Portland for the next three games giving the Trail Blazers a chance to win their second National Basketball Association title without returning to the Palace.

The Trail Blazers, who won their only title in 1977 with Bill Walton at centre, are 9-0 at home in the playoffs.

The loss was Detroit's first in 11 home playoff games and the Trail Blazers have beaten the Pistons 20 consecutive times in Portland since Oct 19 1974. The sixth and seventh games, if necessary, would be back at the Palace.

Berger hungry for first win Senna faces tough race

MONTREAL, June 8. (Reuters): Ayrton Senna hopes to erase one of last season's bitter memories when he returns to Montreal for Sunday's Canadian Grand Prix motor race.

Last year, the Brazilian had certain victory snatched from him at the rain-swept circuit Gilles Villeneuve when his McLaren died less than three laps from the finish, costing him the overall lead in a championship he went on to lose.

But a win on Sunday would put the overall world championship leader well ahead of his rivals.

Senna has already won two of the four races so far this season and has a six-point lead over Austrian McLaren team mate Gerhard Berger as the Formula One circus crosses the Atlantic for rounds five and six in Canada and Mexico.

He has made up for disappointing showings in Brazil and at Imola by winning on the streets of Phoenix and at Monte Carlo, where he raced to a thrilling one-second victory over Jean Alesi on May 27.

Senna faces his toughest challenge from Berger who is hungry for his first victory since leaving Ferrari for the British-based team. The Austrian has finished second twice and third once in his last three races.

While Senna wants to forget last year's race here, the Williams team still savour the day when Belgian Thierry Boutsen and Italy's Riccardo Patrese scored a one-two win after emerging from the floods that

swept most of the field off the track.

Williams also want to recapture the momentum gained by Patrese's San Marino win at Imola in May as they try to keep the 1990 championship from becoming another all-McLaren duel.

Boutsen has added a third, fourth and fifth place finish to his teammate's Imola win to put Williams second in the constructors' championship on 18 points.

But the Renault-powered team face an uphill battle in their effort to overhaul the Honda-powered McLarens, which have already compiled 38 points.

Also anxious to get back on the winning track in Montreal is the Ferrari team of world champion Alain Prost of France and Briton Nigel Mansell.

Ferrari have yet to demonstrate the reliability necessary to seriously challenge McLaren despite Prost's extremely satisfying victory in Brazil in March.

Prepares

But Mansell expects the Ferraris, with their powerful V-12 engines, to fare better on Montreal's 4.39-km island race course than they did on the slow, twisting Monte Carlo street circuit where both cars retired with gearbox problems.

"We feel more confident about the rest of the season," Mansell said.

Alesi, Tyrrell's daring young French driver whose stock rises with each race, is third in the drivers' championship on 13 points as he prepares for his Canadian debut.

Cook reaches 1,000 runs

LONDON, June 8. (Reuters): Somerset's Jimmy Cook became the first man to score 1,000 first-class runs in the English County Cricket League this season when he reached 59 against Hampshire at Basingstoke yesterday.

It was the second successive season Cook has been first to 1,000 runs. Of his runs, there were 151 fours but only one six.

Cook reached his half century in only 36 deliveries with 11 fours but then slowed as he neared his target.

As soon as the 36-year-old South African had reached his milestone, with Somerset still 168 behind Hampshire's 257 for six, captain Chris Tavare declared and by the close Hampshire had lost Paul Terry and Tony Middleton reaching 34 for two, a lead of 202.

Hampshire resumed their first innings at 83 for one and went on to declare at 257 for six from 98 overs. Middleton top-scored with 90 while opener Paul Terry made 64. But Somerset dropped seven catches, five of them in the slips.

After their reply, Somerset declared at 89 for no wicket leaving Hampshire time to build on their lead. But Graham Rose quickly dismissed Terry and Middleton.

Warwickshire seamer Joey Benjamin ripped through the Middlesex batting at Lord's, taking five for 71 as Mike Gatting's side were dismissed for 243.

None of the Middlesex batsmen got going after Desmond Haynes (67) and Mike Roseberry (64) put on 130 for the first wicket. Gatting made the next highest score of 23 and then departed for an X-ray, having been hit behind the left ear by paceman Allan Donald.

It proved to be not serious.



Bugno wins

Italy's Gianni Bugno holds aloft the Giro d'Italia trophy after winning the Giro d'Italia cycling classic on Wednesday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rinker leads

WILMINGTON, Delaware, June 8. (Reuters): Laurie Rinker took a 65-stroke lead in a \$650,000 women's championship golf tournament yesterday with a first-round, four-under-par 67.

Cash defaults, Edberg and Lendl impress

LONDON, June 8. (Reuters): Pat Cash was disqualified for being late at the Beckenham grass court tournament yesterday, as top seeds Ivan Lendl and Stefan Edberg enjoyed useful Wimbledon warm-ups.

Lendl beat the little-known South African Royce Depepe 6-2 6-3 in 50 minutes while Edberg was even more impressive in defeating Australian John Fitzgerald 6-2 6-2.

Ex-Wimbledon champion Cash was defaulted after he failed to turn up on time for a delayed second round match against Edberg.

"Cash knew that we were starting the centre court programme at noon and that the unfinished match ahead of him might not last very long," tournament referee Sultan Gangli said. "He was called at 12.35 and I gave him 15 minutes according to the rules. But he was still not here and I had no option but to default him."

Cash, ranked only 143 in the world after a year out with a ruptured achilles tendon, had been waiting for two days to play the rain-delayed match with Edberg.

Discover
The Australian eventually arrived at 1310 local time and was clearly upset to discover he had been defaulted.

Cash's coach, Ian Barclay explained that they had not expected the first centre court match to finish before 1300 and had been held up in traffic.

Edberg, relieved of the need to play twice in a day following rain earlier in the week, was pleased to beat grass-court specialist Fitzgerald.

"I think I have a good chance of winning Wimbledon this year," said the Swede. "I have been in the final for the past two years. I'm in pretty good shape. My game is well suited to grass and by the time I have played a few matches here and at Queen's club next week I shall be ready for Wimbledon."

Lendl said: "I'm very pleased with my serve. I made more first serves today and had more bite."

SPORTS BRIEFS

Baseball games

NEW YORK, June 8. (Reuters): Results of Major League baseball games played yesterday:

National League	
Montreal	3 St Louis 2
Pittsburgh	5 N.Y. Mets 4
Philadelphia	3 Chicago Cubs 1
Cincinnati	6 Houston Astros 1
American League	
Seattle	2 Chicago W.S. 1
California	2 Kansas City 1
Baltimore	5 Milwaukee 2
Boston	3 N.Y. Yankees 0
Detroit	8 Cleveland 0
Toronto	10 Minnesota 3
Texas	3 Oakland 1

Title fight

PATERSON, New Jersey, June 8. (AP): A superior court judge has cleared the way for a heavyweight title fight between champion Buster Douglas and Evander Holyfield by rejecting a request that would have prevented promoters from offering bids to stage the fight.

Dent fired

NEW YORK, June 8. (Reuters): The once-proud New York Yankees, the club with the worst record this season in Major League baseball, fired manager Bucky Dent on Wednesday and replaced him with Stump Merrill of their Columbus Minor League team.

Olajuwon out

NEW YORK, June 8. (Reuters): Patrick Ewing of the New York Knicks muscled the Houston Rockets' Akeem Olajuwon out of the starting lineup at centre on the 1990 all-NBA team, the National Basketball Association announced on Wednesday.

Mckoy rejected

LONDON, June 8. (Reuters): Mark McKoy, Canada's former Commonwealth high hurdles champion, has been refused admission to the Cardiff Athletic Club in Wales because he admitted under oath to taking drugs.

Jersey drive

BANGKOK, June 8. (Reuters): Thailand's premier says he will give his old shirts to the poor and has appealed to fellow golfers to join his 'Jersey drive'.

Marijuana banned

BARCELONA, Spain, June 8. (Reuters): Marijuana, described by the International Olympic Committee (IOC) as damaging to youth and a danger to world peace, was banned on Wednesday from the Olympic Games. IOC officials said.

Year's best

MILAN, Italy, June 8. (AP): World champion Natalia Gorigorova set the best 1990 world performance in the 100-metre hurdles Wednesday night as she led the Soviet women's team to victory in Milan's eight-nation track and field meet.

Hart Trophy

TORONTO, June 8. (Reuters): Mark Messier, who led the Edmonton Oilers to their fifth Stanley Cup in seven years, was named on Wednesday the winner of the Hart Trophy as the National Hockey League's Most Valuable Player in the closest voting ever.

America's Cup

SAN DIEGO, California, June 8. (Reuters): Women could be at the helm for the first time in the next America's Cup defender series prior to the May 1992 competition for yachting's most prestigious prize. Two Cup syndicates may be skipped by women.

Western Open

OAK BROOK, Illinois, June 8. (Reuters): Loren Roberts and Canadian Ray Stewart shot exceptional rounds of seven-under-par 65 to share the first-round lead at the \$1 million Western Open golf tournament on the difficult Butler National Golf Club course yesterday.

Scandinavian Open

DROTTHINGHOLM, Sweden, June 8. (Reuters): Britain's Howard Clark sank a 60-foot eagle chip shot at the first hole and went on to post a seven-under-par 65 for a share of the lead as the Scandinavian Open golf tournament began at Drottningholm yesterday.



Capriati holds her head in disappointment after her defeat. (Reuters wirephoto)

Graf and Seles reach Open final

PARIS, June 8. (Reuters): World number one Steffi Graf of West Germany and second seeded Monica Seles of Yugoslavia qualified easily yesterday for the women's final of the French Tennis Open.

Top seeded Graf, 20, crushed Czechoslovakia's Jana Novotna 6-1 6-2 while Seles moved comfortably past nervous 14-year-old American Jennifer Capriati 6-2 6-2. The West German, who is looking for her 10th Grand Slam title, took just 63 minutes to beat Novotna, stepping up a gear with a third French open title in sight.

But to win it she must tomorrow beat the girl who ended her 66-match run of victories in the West German final in Berlin last month. That was Seles' first win over Graf in four attempts.

Capriati, the sensation of the Paris tournament, had been expected to give Seles, ranked third in the world at the age of 16, a tougher fight. But her nervous appeared to let her down.

The Yugoslav rarely needed to call on her full range of shots as Capriati consistently failed to keep the ball in the court in the first set.

"I was making so many errors and that's why the first set went so quickly," Capriati said after the 62-minute match.

The second set began with five service breaks, though Capriati ought to have held serve in the fifth game. A few fine calls also upset the normally unflappable American. With the crowd on Capriati's side, Seles needed five match points before sealing the victory.

Seles paid tribute to Capriati, saying she was a player to watch out for in the future.

"There is no question that her game is there. She's obviously here to stay. I think no player has ever played so well at the age of 14," she said.

Against Novotna, Graf gave a powerful all-round display that only faltered briefly in the middle of the second set.

"I was leading easily 6-1 3-0 and then I may be lost concentration," explained Graf, who feels she is back to her best after losing her unbeaten record to Seles.

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Australia, France set for first Test

Fouroux selects young side



France's Henry Sanz, with the ball, passes during training today. (Reuters wirephoto)

SYDNEY, June 8. (Reuters): A classic sporting duel between brawn and speed has turned the first rugby union Test between Australia and France into one of the most intriguing international matches in recent years.

French coach Jacques Fouroux sees the Test as the first step in his building programme for the 1991 World Cup and has selected a young side featuring perhaps the largest and tallest pack in French history.

Bob Dwyer, who has pledged to beat France 3-0 in the series, is a coach whose reputation for ingenuity and tactical skill will be fully tested tomorrow.

A defeat at the Sydney Football Stadium would weaken the already shaky position of Dwyer, whose contract to coach Australia until the World Cup is up

for review later this year.

Dwyer has instructed his players to avoid line-outs whenever possible, keep the ball alive to tire out the leviathan French pack and concentrate on winning quality second phase ball.

"I'd imagine that they'll try to wear us down, especially with them being so big and physical," Dwyer said. "Obviously the line-out is their strength... we just have to try to counteract it as best we can by being very competitive."

Fouroux said he had picked big men to counteract the power shown by the Australian forwards in their 32-15 defeat of France in the first Test in France last November. France won the second test 25-19 in a brilliant display of running rugby.



Eddery banned

EPSOM, England, June 7. (Reuters): Double Derby hero Pat Eddery was handed a three-day ban by the Epsom stewards yesterday for excessive use of the whip. Eddery, the English champion, rode Quest for Fame to win the Epsom Derby on Wednesday after winning the French version of the race on Sanglamore on Sunday. But the stewards decided Eddery over-used his whip when pushing Lyndesay into a dead-heat with maitres des Fruits in a five furlong (1 km) spring yesterday.

Eddery will be banned from racing from June 16-18, just before the start of the Royal Ascot meeting in a desperate finish in which a less than a length covered the first six horses home Eddery hit the winner at least 15 times, although the horse was not marked. The maximum is 10. Above, Eddery on Quest for Fame after his win on Wednesday. (Reuters wirephoto)

Agassi and Gomez in Open final

PARIS, June 8. (AP) Andre Agassi beat Jonas Svensson in four sets Friday to join veteran Andres Gomez in the final of the French Open.

The No. 3 seed Agassi topped the unseeded Swede, 6-1, 6-4, 3-6, 6-3, in a match delayed at the start and interrupted briefly by rain in the second game.

Gomez of Ecuador, ignited by a run of seven games, blew past Austria's Thomas Muster, 7-5, 6-1, 7-5 in the other semifinal.

Agassi had no trouble with Svensson at the start, racing to a 3-0 lead with brutal forehands and precise passing shots.

Svensson held his serve for the only time in the first set in the fourth game then Agassi finished out the set, 6-3. He raced to a 4-0 lead in the second with overpowering ease.

Svensson closed to 5-4 but Agassi went up a break and appeared to be headed to an easy victory. But Svensson refused to hold and took five for the next seven games to force the match into a fourth set.

But Agassi came back and went up 3-0. Svensson again came back to close to 4-3.

However in the eighth game, Svensson made a pair of backhand errors to give Agassi a chance to break.

Svensson attempted a serve-and-volley but popped the ball long to have Agassi serve for the match.

Agassi controlled the game, getting a match point when Svensson hit a service return long.

The match ended when Agassi came in behind his serve and drilled a forehand into the corner that Svensson couldn't handle. (Also see Page 31)

Kiwis slide to 171 for 5

NOTTINGHAM, England, June 8. (Reuters) Pacesetter Phil DeFreitas earned an overtime bonus to round off a worthy display by England's bowlers in the first cricket Test against New Zealand yesterday.

His last-gasp dismissal of key batsman Martin Crowe sent New Zealand sliding to 171 for five at close of play.

DeFreitas, having performed well with no luck, gained his reward eight minutes from the end of the extra hour added on because of four rain delays.

Crowe, the one New Zealander to keep England at bay with any confidence, hit a six and five hours in a typically stylish 59.

But when he tried an ambitious cut, his stumps were shattered and England celebrated the wicket they most wanted.

Crowe's departure capped a disappointing day for New Zealand. Having somewhat surprisingly chosen to bat first in overcast conditions, they struggled from the outset.

Devon Malcolm picked up two wickets while Gladstone Small, the third member of Graham Gooch's Caribbean-born pace trio, sent back captain John Wright before lunch for eight.

Scoreboard

NEW ZEALAND
T. Franklin b Malcolm 33
J. Wright c Stewart b Small 8
A. Jones c Stewart b Malcolm 39
M. Crowe b DeFreitas 59
M. Greatbatch b Hemmings 1
M. Priest not out 23
M. Snedden not out 0
Extras (b-1 lb-6 w-1) 8
Total (for five wickets) 171
Fall of wickets 1-16 2-75 3-110 4-121 5-170
To bat J. Bracewell, I. Smith, R. Hadlee, D. Morrison.
Bowling to date: Small 22-7-36-1, Malcolm 19-7-48-2, Hemmings 19-64-7-1, DeFreitas 15-3-33-1.

Biyik Omam scores winner Cameroon upset Argentina

(Continued from Page 1)

Maradona plays in Italy for Napoli, which edged out AC Milan to win this year's League championship. The season was marked by bitter rivalry between Napoli and Milan.

Before the match began, fans wearing the colours of at least a dozen teams competing in the tournament marched to the stadium chanting and waving flags.

The weather unexpected turned from rainy to sunny one hour before kickoff time.

Cameroon were down to 10 men by the time Biyik scored after midfielder Andre Kana-Biyik was sent off for a foul on substitute striker Claudio Caniggia.

Benjamin Massing, booked in the first half, was later shown the red card for a blatant body check on Caniggia.

Cameroon also had Akemi N'Dip and Emile M'Bouh M'Bouh booked while Robert Sensini was the only Argentine shown the yellow card.

Speed

The Argentines, a pale shadow of the side that won the World Cup in Mexico four years ago, were found wanting for speed by a side playing simple counter-attacking soccer.

Cameroon, with striker Benjamin Massing brilliant in fast breaks down the middle, wrought havoc in the Argentine defence while Maradona and Jorge Burruchaga failed to inspire up front.

Cameroon drew their three matches in the 1982 World Cup finals in Spain, where Argentina also crashed to a defeat by the same score to Belgium when defending their first title.

Maradona, marked by two and at times three players, had few touches of the ball and failed to inspire Argentina to a performance in keeping with their status as world champions.

Cameroon, whose game was faster and less ponderous than Argentina's came closest to scoring midway through the half.

An attack down the middle that had the Argentine defence in disarray ended with two defenders closing in on striker Emmanuel Mkanaky. His shot was weak and Nestor Lorenzo managed to hook the ball just wide of Nery Pumpido's left-hand post.

Argentina had the better of the early exchanges and could have



Biyik Omam of Cameroon leaps in the air to score his team's only goal. (Reuters wirephoto)

taken the lead in the fourth minute if striker Abel Balbo had not stumbled over the ball.

Goalkeeper Thomas Nkono, a veteran of the 1982 finals, blocked Nestor Fabbri's shot after the defender latched on to the loose ball.

The tournament had earlier on started with a dazzling show of Italian fashion, song and dance before a sellout crowd and a world-wide television audience.

The 25-minute extravaganza inside the towering high-tech stadium with a lattice-work roof featured 160 models wearing the creations of four noted Italian designers, three singers, 24 giant soccer balls and one giant helium balloon that looked like a soccer ball.

Sung

To the sound of the World Cup anthem "Un Estate Italiana" (an Italian summer) sung by popular recording artists Edoardo Bennato and Gianni Nannini, 300 gymnasts came on to the pitch bearing the flags of the 24 finalists.

After the anthem, models wearing creations designed by Milla Schon, Valentino, Gianfranco Ferré and Ottavio Missoni paraded around the field. Each designer picked a colour

and one of one of the four continents represented at the World Cup for the theme of his designs.

Maradona stood up his own president for 18 embarrassing minutes yesterday before the two men were due to meet at a joint news conference.

Argentine President Carlos Menem appeared at the conference 35 minutes late himself in the press centre at the Meazza stadium in Milan.

But he stood talking with increasingly nervous aides for a further seven minutes on a podium in front of several hundred journalists before he was quietly whisked out to wait for Maradona in private.

Seven minutes later, Maradona arrived and sat down. A moment or two later, Menem came in and Maradona had to be prompted by a bystander to stand and greet his country's leader formally.

Menem, who is visiting Italy to watch Maradona's team play, presented the Argentine captain with an award for "disseminating the image of Argentina abroad."

England goalkeeper Peter Shilton is poised to capture the world record for international

appearances despite the claims of South Korean striker Choi Soon-Hoo.

A Fifa spokesman said today that it recognised former Northern Ireland goalie Pat Jennings as holding the official record for caps with 119. Shilton has 118 and is expected to break the record during the World Cup finals.

The South Korean claim that 28-year-old Choi had played 129 times for his country could not be recognised without thorough examination, the spokesman said.

"We have asked South Korea for clarification and apparently they are sending us a document though we haven't received it yet," he added.

"We would need to examine the games he played in because we only recognise matches between the A sides of two countries, whether friendlies or in competition."

"As far as we are concerned, Jennings holds the official world record."

West German coach Franz Beckenbauer has blasted what he called "the old men" of Fifa for failing to change World Cup rules to allow substitutes to be

picked from all 11 players on the bench.

"Fifa is no fountain of youth. Some of the founder members are still there," Beckenbauer said today.

Soccer's world governing body, founded in 1904, drew Beckenbauer's scorn by failing to change a rule which allows substitutes to be drawn from only five pre-selected players among the 11 not included in the starting line-up.

Changed

He said all 24 national associations had wanted the rule changed before the 1986 Mexico World Cup finals but had been denied, and the same thing had just happened in Zurich.

"But when you see who's there, it's no surprise. They're all as old as each other. It's sad though," Beckenbauer said.

A Fifa spokesman said attempts to change the rules to allow all 11 reserves to be used as substitutes had always been rejected by the British-dominated international board, responsible for the laws of the game.

But he said Fifa hoped to have the rule in force in time for the 1994 finals.



Cameroon's Akam Ndiip comes to Maradona's aid after knocking him to the shoulder. (Reuters wirephoto)

S. Koreans caught off guard

GARDA, Italy, June 8. (Reuters) The South Korean soccer squad have discovered that European beds are too short.

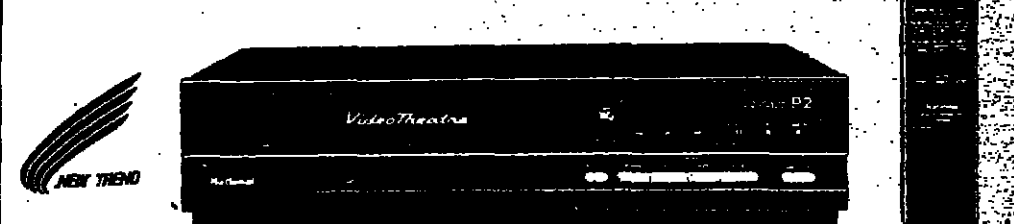
"The beds here are short and there three or four (South Korean) players who are tall. We'll have to ask the hotel for longer beds," Ko Chung-Tok, vice-president of the Korean Football Association said yesterday.

Goalkeeper Kim Pung-Joo is the South Korean's tallest player at 1.90 metres. Striker Choi Soon-Hoo is 1.86 metres tall.

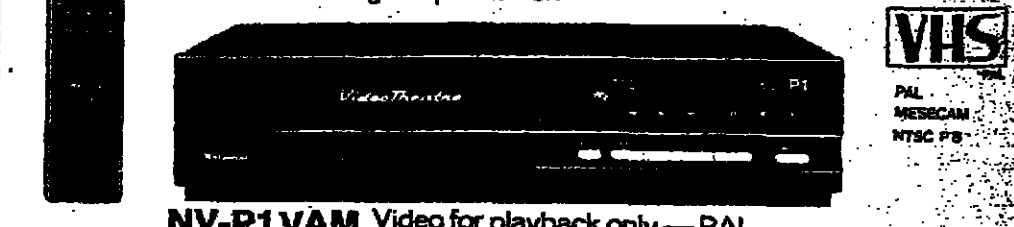
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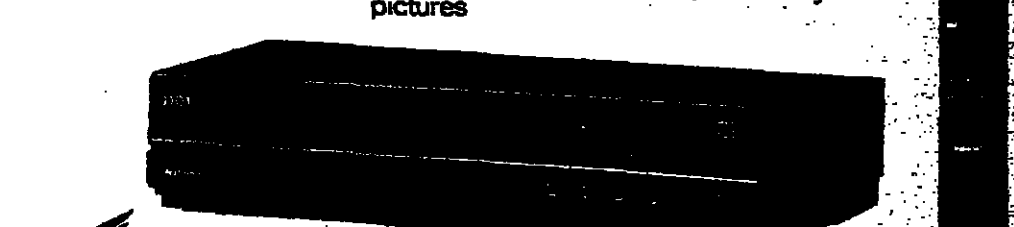
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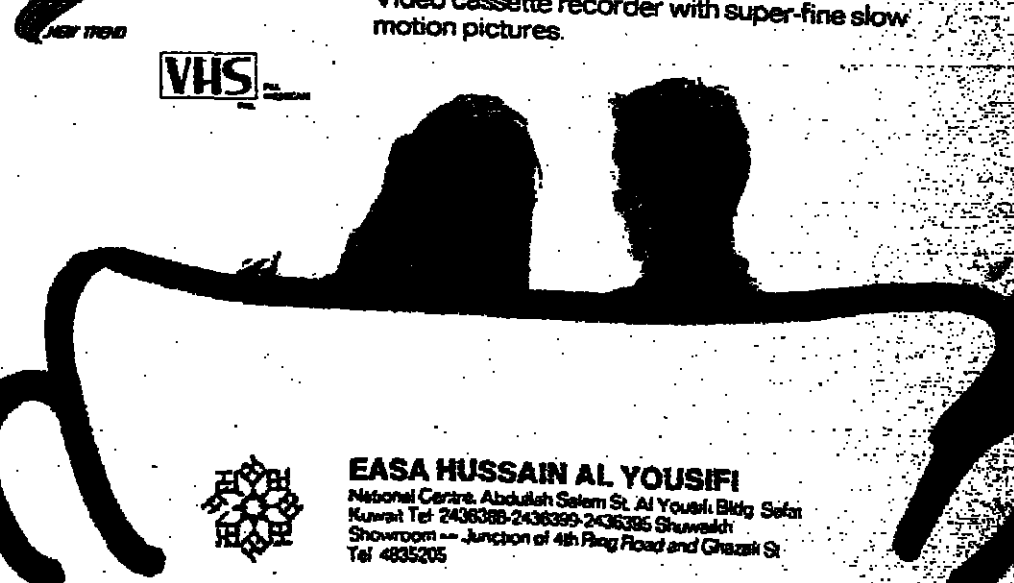
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India-Pakistan dispute hits cricket schedules

NEW DELHI, June 8. (Reuters) The dispute between India and Pakistan over Kashmir has thrown their cricket tour schedules for the coming year into disarray.

A senior Indian cricket board official, who did not want to be named, told Reuters that West Indies were being approached for a tour of India in case Pakistan opted out of a scheduled series due to start in January.

He said the Kashmir issue had put the Pakistan tour of India in jeopardy.

India has already withdrawn from the lucrative Champions Cup in Sharjah in

the United Arab Emirates, where tensions have run high between Indian and Pakistani supporters during their matches in the past.

A revolt in the Muslim-majority Kashmir state this year has raised tensions between Islamabad and Delhi.

"We will explore the possibilities of the West Indies playing a short series with India in November this year at the ICC (International Cricket Conference) meeting," Indian cricket board secretary Ranbir Singh said.

He added, however, that he was hopeful Pakistan would tour India next

January.

"The series against Pakistan is very much on the Indian calendar and we have no plans to shelve it although we will negotiate with the West Indies to also play in India," he said.

Singh said he hoped to persuade West Indies to come to India for the tour after their team takes part in a one-day tournament in Bangladesh from November 11 to 16.

India and Pakistan are the two other nations in the Bangladesh tournament.

"We would like them to tag it (the Bangladesh tournament) with a short

series in India," Singh said.

Indian cricket officials had originally planned to persuade their West Indian counterparts at the ICC meeting in London from June 28 to 30, to drop their demand for a winter series in India and instead accept an Indian tour of the West Indies.

The Indian officials had insisted until two months ago that it was West Indies' turn to host because in the last seven years West Indies had made two tours of India while India had toured the West Indies only once.

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